

COMMISSION ON AGING
(Draft)
MINUTES

Monday, February 5, 2018

Present: Commission members Bruce Lorentzen, Don Gumaer, Peggy Anderson, Dale Robinson, Allison Lisbon and Richard Wolf; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter, Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Dial-a-Ride Roy March, guest Woody Bliss and briefly, Program Coordinator Carla Jegen.

Meeting convened at 9:18 AM.

An addition to the minutes of the January 8th meeting to include Bruce nominating Don as secretary was discussed and approved.

Minutes of the January 8th meeting were approved as written.

Dial-a-Ride: Roy stated that the month Of January has been somewhat slower due to the winter, illness and center closings. There seems to be a trend of fewer trips to the Westport Senior Center. Roy and Charlene discussed the importance of continuing the search and securing a designated back-up driver(s).

Woody returned to discuss the three Senior Tax Relief Programs. Abatement is the biggest program of the three (about 80 families) with deferment and freeze programs are used by three families. Jonathan Luiz (Town Administrator) would like to reduce the numbers of the abatement program , or pro rate the abatement and make better use of the deferment and freeze programs. This would create some cash flow to enable the funding of extra hours and expanding the programs for our center.

Weston Social Services: Charlene reported last month that a large number of Weston residents disadvantaged by the threatened MSP service reductions, possibly taking effect as soon as late February. The state legislature has postponed any action to July. She also talked about the new Senior Center Task Force that has reached out to all Connecticut senior centers in the form of a survey. Preliminary results are just starting to come in.

All is going well with heating assistance. Everyone who has asked for help has received it.

Carla spoke briefly about the center and said that all is slow at the moment, with lots of delays and attendance down due to the weather and illness.

SWCAA: Meta reported on SWCCA's January meeting, which was held at the Bigelow Center in Fairfield. MSP budget cuts continue to be of great concern. There will be new procedures and policies for CHOICES & SMP volunteers. The Federal government is requiring a background

check for all councilors. AARP Tax Assistance programs are being offered at several senior centers – Norwalk, Westport and Trumbull. Simply stated, AARP volunteers will enter tax Information and electronically file income taxes at no costs for middle to low income seniors.

Bruce adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gumaer