

***Amended and Approved on November 2, 2015**

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

October 5, 2015

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Laura Smits, Peg Anderson, Nina Daniel and Bruce Lorentzen. Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Weston Social Services Director Charlene Chiang Hillman; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter; Gordon Greene, Dial-A-Ride.

Meeting convened at 9:25.

Minutes: September minutes approved by consensus.

SWCAA: Meta reported that the agency's last meeting was held in the Easton Senior Center on 9/11. Pat Knebel reported that all grant requests were awarded albeit at lower levels. CHOICES program announced that Medicare open enrollment will be 10/15-12/7. Sue Pfister, chair of the Advisory Council stated that there would be turnover in the leadership with some new members joining and old members leaving the board. Wilton has voted to renovate their Senior Center; work will begin in January. Westport is adding more exercise classes to meet an increase in demand. Darien's center is now a year old, it is a Senior Center by day and Community Center by night.

Social Services: Charlene reported that she is busy with fuel assistance applications—more applications this year. Our Meals on Wheels provider has decided to drop us due to our needing too few meals. Charlene will talk to Tom about possible solutions. Discussion ensued. The food pantry is in limbo—although local farmers have been providing fresh produce for Charlene to distribute and she has food cards available as well. Nina asked about the pantry and if it was locked? Charlene responded that currently the pantry is empty and locked. Discussion ensued.

Dial-A-Ride: Gordon distributed reports for the summer months and went over them. He is working on specifications for the new bus. Bruce told the group that the town has to send out an RFP to purchase. There was a general discussion about comfort and access. Wendy asked if there could be a separate meeting to discuss how to fund the remaining \$40,000 necessary to purchase the bus—total cost is approximately \$80,000 with this year's car show raising approximately half. Woody will be back next week and Wendy will contact him. Gordon, Wendy and Bruce agreed to a preliminary meeting before he returns.

Senior Tax Relief Programs Review: Nina said that she, Woody, and Margarita are working on this; discussion was postponed.

Senior Center Director: Wendy stated that the car show was a big success—they raised \$40,000. She gave kudos to Meta for her excellent work at the gate encouraging people to donate. As noted above, they are still short \$40,000 to buy the bus and Wendy will be meeting with Gayle and others to figure out how to get the rest of the money. Meta and the group praised Wendy and her group of organizers. Discussion ensued. Wendy will start using the new logo

soon. The Center is having difficulty getting people to attend some programs and Wendy will start sending out flyers to enhance publicity. Art Gottlieb's lectures are well attended. Wendy is working with Gayle Clayton on the new Center website which she believes will help; possible night programs with the library are also an option that we should explore in the future. Discussion ensued concerning other ways to improve program participation. The new outside signage will have to go through the proper town/school channels. Helen will contact Gayle or Tom about how to proceed. Wendy asked if we could contact a landscaping company to clean up the outside areas. Helen offered to contact the town's Beautification Committee to see if they would be willing to coordinate; new landscaping will also need approval. The Elder Law class has been very successful.

Town Budget Process: The process doesn't begin until the end of November, but we will definitely address the center's vehicles and other needs. Wendy doesn't see the need for expanded hours/night hours at this time.

Commission Business: Helen distributed a revised Annual Report with minor changes. There was a discussion about the re-gifting holiday event. Helen asked about re-appointments. Laura will provide a letter-of-resignation to Helen effective December 31, 2015.

Friends Report: Wendy will be doing a program in conjunction with Youth Services at the Center led by Charlene Monn. Helen also suggested that Parks and Recreation may be another agency interested in doing a program with the Senior Center. Nina reported that the car show raised \$40,000 as mentioned earlier, which is more than last year and includes both the gate and other donors. All of the money raised will go to help purchase the new bus.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits