

## COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

October 6, 2014

**Present:** Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Nina Daniel, Laura Smits, Bruce Lorentzen, Peg Anderson, Margarita Shapiro and Don Gumaer; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeder.

**Guests:** Vera Blau, Woody Bliss

Meeting convened at 9:25.

**Minutes:** Laura read the September minutes and they were approved by consensus.

Helen displayed the article in the Forum featuring Margarita and the SCAM presentation about helping Weston seniors avoid fraud.

**SWCAA:** Meta reported that their last meeting was on September 10<sup>th</sup> in the Stamford Senior Center. SWCAA celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> year with a party on September 18<sup>th</sup> that was well attended. SWCAA is moving headquarters in January, better parking and better location. Pat Knebel, head of grants, reported that the specific grants that were awarded were slightly less than last year. The head of CHOICES reported that 10/15 through 12/7 is the open enrollment period for Medicare. Wilton Senior Center will be renovated. Many Senior Center programs are just starting up after the summer break. The fate of the proposed senior housing on the South Baron property in Westport will be discussed at the next Westport Planning and Zoning board meeting. The Westport Senior Center is thriving and the programs are filled—they will be expanding their hours to meet the demand. The Darien Senior Center (by day) and Community Center (night) is finished. All seniors are encouraged to get flu shots this season.

**Dial-A-Ride:** Gordon reported that all vehicles are functioning. Bruce and Gordon are working on the specs for the new van. Gordon has a few new passengers that have started to go to the luncheon.

**Social Services:** Charlene is looking for help during the fuel assistance enrollment time period. Discussion ensued.

**Senior Center Director:** The new space is coming along: one room will be designated for movies/presentations. There will also be a café, an exercise area, and a lounge with tables etc. Pam reported that Carla is working Tuesdays and Fridays. The Center is now open on Fridays and well attended. There is a desire for more exercise classes, tap and swing dance classes are a possibility. Wendy will put a notice in the newsletter to see if there is any interest. The Car Show was very good but due to the weather not quite as good as last year. Discussion ensued. Wendy also noted that we should have more sponsors for the show, not fair to keep going to the same people. Bruce suggested that we start soliciting sponsors earlier. Woody said we still have dollars coming and have raised \$16,000 net so far. Attendance estimate is approximately 1100. Kudos were given to Wendy and everyone who helped organize the event.

**Ideas for Programs:** Helen suggested that people contact Pam if they have program ideas. Meta asked for flyers to help publicize events, and stated that we need to have a way to communicate about what is currently taking place at the Center.

**Lunch at the Center:** The Center is trying to work with the schools lunch program to have food available at the center beyond the Wednesday luncheon up at Norfield.

The Center now has a new fax machine; we are still working on specifications for a copier.

**Friends:** Nina reported for the Friends who are meeting this afternoon to discuss how the proceeds of the car show will be spent. Holiday Party date Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new space is tentatively scheduled for Thanksgiving Monday but is dependent on renovation progress. Nina would like to see more programs for the 55-60 crowd. Meta mentioned that this group usually likes night programs since many still work during the day. A discussion ensued about how we can attract this group of younger seniors.

**Annual Report:** Helen asked if there were any changes/suggestions. There were not so she will turn it in to the Town Clerk's office.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. to tour the renovation.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits