

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

April 6, 2015

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Don Gumaer, Nina Daniel, Laura Smits, Bruce Lorentzen and Peg Anderson. Social Services Director Charlene Chiang Hillman; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Assistant Program Coordinator Carla Jegen; Weston/Westport Health District Representative Monica Wheeler; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter and Gordon Greene, Dial-A-Ride.

Meeting convened at 9:15.

Minutes: March minutes were amended to include Don as present.

SWCAA: Meta reported that this month's meeting was held in the new Darien Senior/Community Center. April 15th is the deadline for grant applications and there are also new technical requirements. Westport is working on a third RFP for the Baron's property. Discussion ensued.

Social Services: Charlene reported that there are a few people in town struggling to pay heating costs. **Senior Tax Relief:** the biggest problem is that some seniors forget they are eligible for the program and then miss the deadline. Seniors are ineligible for tax relief if they already owe back taxes which starts/continues a cycle of being denied relief. Discussion ensued. Helen asked about the food pantry, there is some concern over its stocks/maintenance. Because of the low demand the Meals on Wheels program provider has asked for an additional \$50 a week to deliver to Weston. (Volunteer drivers cannot consistently pick up meals out of town.) Charlene asked if the Friends could help with \$1,000 to help defray the cost. Helen suggested that the Morehouse Elderly Assistance Fund could suitably be used for this purpose.

Dial-A-Ride: Gordon reported that there is a line in the capital budget for a new van in 2016-2017, so we are on schedule. The current van may need some bodywork due to harsh weather conditions this winter. Nina asked if the van could be available for people to participate in the Weston Historical Society event on May 3rd and Gordon said this would need to be cleared with the town since the event is on a Sunday.

Senior Center Director: Wendy reported that the art hanging system is due to arrive tomorrow. The idea of a copier is being explored but the funds will have to come from the Friends or another source. A Center website is an idea they are exploring for the future to compliment the current email blasts they already send out.

Communications: Helen distributed logo options. Discussion ensued.

Activities/Programs Update: Trips are planned for the Botanical Gardens in Brooklyn, Radio City Music Hall, the Frida Kahlo exhibit at the Bronx Botanical Gardens and the sculpture park in Storm King, NY in June, and the Mohonk House in July. There was a discussion about holding a "Senior Choice at Home" program and what that would include.

Westport/Weston Health District: Monica said they will be offering a Home Safety assessment program with a physical therapist, which will also include information about emergency preparedness on April 29th. She is going to contact Fire Chief John Pokorny to see if he is interested in participating. The health district will be sponsoring a CPR event on May 3rd at the Westport/Weston YMCA. The district will also be holding a tick management talk on April 21st at the Westport Library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits