

**\*Amended on June 1, 2015**

## **COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES**

**May 4, 2015**

**Present:** Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Don Gumaer, Nina Daniel, Laura Smits, Peg Anderson, Margarita Shapiro. Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Assistant Program Coordinator Carla Jegen; Weston/Westport Health District Representative Pat Porio; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter, Gordon Greene, Dial-A-Ride and Weston residents Dale Robinson, John Marozik, and First Selectman Gayle Weinstein (arrived at 9:50).

Meeting convened at 9:15.

**Minutes:** April minutes approved by consensus.

**SWCAA:** Meta reported that April's meeting was held in Kingswood Condominiums in Stamford, near the Regency nursing home. Allocations meeting for grants will be in June (applications are due by the end of April). Community Reports: Many centers are reporting an increase in senior identity theft due to the Anthem breach last year. Westport Baron's property is off the table for senior housing, the town voted to keep the land as open space, making one of four open spaces in town.

**Guests:** John Marozik attended the meeting to voice his concern about the lack of transportation available to seniors in town who would like to participate in the many programs listed in the newsletter at the Center but do not drive or have a way to get there. He asked if the Dial-A-Ride van could be made available for this purpose. Gordon stated that he cannot since the van is used for so many medical appointments. Discussion ensued as to possible solutions.

**Social Services:** Charlene was not present. Helen reported that Meals on Wheels will be submitting a concrete proposal of the cost of providing meals to Weston seniors. Helen asked if the Commission would be comfortable using funds from the Elderly Assistance Fund which does cover food relief, if the cost is between \$1,000-\$1,200 per year. There will be further discussion at next month's meeting.

**Dial-A-Ride:** Gordon reported that trips are down. Wendy would like to make raising money for a bus the goal for the upcoming car show. A bus for long distance trips. It was noted that there was nothing in the 2015-2016 town's sinking fund for a vehicle for the Senior Center. Nina asked specifics about what the cost of a 20-passenger bus would be? Discussion ensued as to whether we should have 2 small buses rather than a large one. Nina suggested that Gordon come to the Friends meeting to discuss the details, since the Friends' Board must vote on it before going forward.

**Senior Center Future Plans:** First Selectman Weinstein arrived at 9:50. She is working with Superintendent Palmer on a tentative agreement so that the seniors may stay in Hurlbutt for 8 years. Helen said that if this is the case, then air conditioning on the south side rooms would be much appreciated.

**Senior Center Director:** Wendy had to leave early.

**Activities/Programs Update:** Pam mentioned the many trips that are planned for the upcoming season including 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. A “Senior Choice at Home” program will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at noon.

**Westport/Weston Health District:** Pat Porio reported that the district held a skin cancer screening that was very popular and that their “Hands Only” CPR course had over 300 people attend. There will be a Livewell program at the Westport Senior Center on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Pat mentioned that there is a “visiting” program at the Health District that visits homebound elderly in Westport, and acts as another set of eyes on those living alone. Helen mentioned that it would be nice to have something like this in Weston. Margarita offered to investigate some possibilities.

**Friends of the Senior Center:** Nina reported that Medicare is reporting a lot more fraud, such as people using other peoples’ Medicare benefits. There is a Friends meeting today and one of the items on the agenda is the difficulty finding transportation for seniors in Weston. Nina cited John Marozik’s presence as evidence of the need for more transportation solutions for Weston seniors.

**Long-Range Planning Meeting:** Helen reminded the commission that our next meeting in June will focus on long-range planning before we break for the summer months. Members should bring ideas about what might be needed for the Center in the future. Nina suggested that we focus on smaller, more achievable and immediate solutions, rather than tackling larger systemic challenges. Discussion ensued.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits