

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

May 5, 2014

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Nina Daniel, Laura Smits, Peggy Anderson, Don Gumaer. Senior Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Social Services Director Charlene Chiang Hillman; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeder; Woody Bliss.

Meeting convened 9:25 a.m.

Facilities Update: Woody raised his concerns about the lack of movement on upgrades/improvements to the Senior Center which may mean we will lose momentum and not be able to complete work before the end of this summer. Woody would like the Commission to create a resolution to send to the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen stating our objection to the length of time it is taking to make a decision. Nina suggested that we send a communication that we as a group are a united voice advocating on behalf of the seniors. She advised the commission that at the May 19th BOE meeting there will a presentation of the school security audit. Discussion ensued. The following resolution was sent to the BOE, the BOS and the Weston Forum:

The Weston Commission on Aging, at its May 5, 2014 meeting, unanimously passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Commission on Aging urges the Board of Education, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to move ahead in making timely decisions to assure that the Weston Senior Activities Center expansion plan is completed by the start of school in August 2014.

Specifically:

- 1. Planning, including appropriate security, for the new parking spaces and the replacement parking spaces should begin immediately.***
- 2. Planning, including appropriate security, for the separation wall and modifications to access and egress should begin immediately.***

Expansion of the Weston Senior Activity Center reflects the values of an inclusive community and is important to our senior population and Weston as a whole.

The Weston Commission on Aging

April Minutes: Approved by consensus.

SWCAA Report: Meta reported that there is some planning for the 40th anniversary of the organization which will be on September 18, which will bring together and recognize past and present board members. Gretchen James announced that there will be training to stamp out

scams related to seniors. The Westport Baron's property plans continue to move forward with independent and assisted living options for Westport seniors. The Watermark and The Jewish Home are partnering with the town of Westport for this effort. ITN is now averaging 32 rides a day in six towns but will not be expanding at this time. The group praised AARP tax programs that were available to help seniors with their taxes free of charge.

Social Services: Charlene stated that things are quieter now that winter is over. Once again, her main concern are the 6 or 7 seniors who refuse services and who do not qualify for conservatorship. Charlene is concerned that this may be the start of a trend due to the aging of the town's population.

Senior Center Report: Wendy stated that there is not much to report. Wendy has been spending a lot of time in meetings about school security and how it relates to the Senior Center. There has been some interest in the additional part-time position. Meta complimented both Wendy and Pam for the great trip to Hyde Park.

Friends of the WSAC: Nina reported that the Friends have funded the Wellness Series. The Canasta "Lunch and Learn" has been very popular. The group has subsidized the bus for trips and co-sponsored the upcoming Volunteer Luncheon. They are currently working on plans for the Ice Cream Social on June 10th at 12:30.

Other Business: Helen would like to plan a tour of other area senior centers for Commission members. Helen raised some issues to be further discussed at our long-range planning meeting on June 2, which will replace our regular June meeting. Topics include transportation options, alternate Center locations and housing for seniors.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Smits