

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DRAFT
May 2, 2016

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Peggy Anderson, Bruce Lorentzen, Don Gumaer, Harvey Bellin, Joy Peshkin and Margarita Shapiro; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pamela Wilson; Dial-a-Ride Driver Gordon Greene, SWCAA liaison Meta Schoeter; WWHD's Monica Wheeler, and guests Allison Lisbon, Dale Robinson, and Woody Bliss.

Helen called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

Woody said he would work on the review of Weston's tax relief programs over the summer with help from Margarita and Allison. They will report back, possibly with recommendations for consideration by the Commission, in September or October.

Minutes: April minutes were approved by consensus.

SWCAA: Meta reported on the April meeting. Major funding for expansion of Westport's senior center has been approved. Speed dating has been fun and successful in Stamford; the Stamford Center's 20-year celebration went very well and a few people were specially honored at the event, including the Reverend Fred Ogletree for his outreach work. SWCAA has developed programs about Medicare for those new to it, as well as about Medicare fraud. The former was presented in Weston to a full house last week and was well received; the latter will be presented in June.

Dial-a-Ride: Gordon noted that it had been a relatively quiet month though the number of rides to medical appointments remained consistent. The van's studded winter tires were removed and some repairs made. He, Bruce, and Wendy will work together on specs for a new Dial-a-Ride van on Thursday.

Weston Social Services: Charlene reported that things are very busy in her office and that they had been working on tax relief. Helen asked if she had enough support and Charlene expressed interest in having a part time helper to work on volunteer coordination, as Wendy had done before becoming senior center director. It was noted that Catherine Revzon is interested in fostering intergenerational support of seniors, as is Allison. The Food Pantry is up and running and with other food resources in place we are meeting local needs. Charlene mentioned that Nancy McCormick has formally retired from ITNCoastalCT.

Weston Senior Activities Center: Wendy reported that the Center website at westonseniorcenter.info is up as of today, May 2nd. She spoke briefly about demographic changes at the Center noting that some older seniors are no longer with us but that younger seniors are coming for exercise and other programs being offered. She was pleased to hear that residents had received the current Center newsletter in a more timely fashion than they

had the last mailing. Wendy is encouraging community organizations to hold their meetings and/or programs at the Center during the summer when schools are not in session in order to introduce their members to the facility even though some may not be able to continue using it when schools are in session again. She has invited the library, which will be undergoing renovations, to utilize the space for programs as well.

Friends of the Weston Senior Activities Center: Bruce said that as of now the new bus could be less expensive than originally expected but he, Wendy, and Gordon will be discussing final details and upgrades at their Thursday meeting. The friends have been supporting various lectures and other activity costs as well as food provided at certain Center programs.

Westport Weston Health District: Monica reported that the free skin cancer screening at the Health District office went very well with good Weston resident participation; the waiting line was quite long and time consuming and some had to leave before their screening. To clarify any misunderstanding, the WWHD will be offering rabies vaccinations for animals; a \$20 fee will be charged. Monica will be participating in fall-prevention/balance program training in Maine and will in turn be able to train others for our area. Norwalk Hospital is reaching out to area communities with a health assessment in a few weeks.

Helen said that next month's meeting is our annual long-range planning session and encouraged people to let her know ahead of time about anything they would like added to the agenda. She asked everyone to be thinking about how best to get senior input on possible programs to support aging-in-place and on other senior housing issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Gumaer