

## COMMISSION ON AGING

### Review and Long-range Planning Meeting

#### Minutes

June 6, 2016

**Present:** Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Don Gumaer, Peggy Anderson, Bruce Lorentzen, and Margarita Shapiro; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Weston Social Services Director Charlene Chiang Hillman; Weston/Westport Health District Representative Monica Wheeler; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter (very briefly), and guests Allison Lisbon and Dale Robinson.

Meeting convened at 9:25 a.m.

**SWCAA:** Meta left due to other commitments and Wendy read her report.

**Dial-A-Ride/Transportation:** Gordon distributed his report and commented that ride numbers remained essentially the same as in the past few months. (He noted that the Center's three major trips per year use a coach bus.) The proposal for the Center's new mid-sized excursion bus has been set but the ultimate cost with upgrades and specifications will need final approval from the Board of Finance. It was noted that the Friends are providing up to \$40,000, half of the projected cost for the bus with the remaining half coming from the Morehouse Elderly Assistance Fund (up to \$20,000) and the Town. The desirability of more flexible, expanded transportation options in the future, including an option to help seniors with medical appointments in Fairfield and other areas outside the existing service area, was discussed. Several ideas were suggested. It was also noted that funding of a replacement Dial-a-Ride van is awaiting Board of Finance authorization expected later this month.

**Social Services:** Charlene reviewed Social Services responsibilities and her role as Weston's municipal agent for the elderly. She reiterated that monies are always needed for heat, hot water, food, and electricity and are raised through sources outside of Town funds (the Town covers staff salaries, office supplies and space). Current needs are being met but should the load increase it could easily become an issue. Discussion ensued. It was noted that previous issues with the Meals-on-Wheels program and the Weston Food Pantry have been positively resolved during the past year.

**Minutes:** May minutes were approved by consensus.

**Weston Senior Activities Center:** Wendy stated that she would like to have a tangible item as a fundraising goal for the Classic Car Show in the fall since having one was so successful last year. (No specific item/idea emerged in the ensuing conversation.) The Center's various activities, programs, and increased participation were discussed. Need for additional improvements including installation of new entrance landscaping and outdoor Center signage as well as for more indoor air-conditioning, a better copier, and refining and publicly launching the new website were

also discussed. Major progress has been made on these projects with more expected before and/or by the fall. Regarding staffing, Pam will be leaving Weston and Wendy said that Carla will become Program Coordinator and that Linda Gilmore, who has been volunteering at the Center for some time, will assume Carla's old position. Wendy also mentioned the desirability of adding to staff/coverage. A range of funding sources for the Center were reviewed including the Town, the Friends/Classic Car Show, grants, private gifts, and the Morehouse Elderly Assistance Fund.

**Other Business:** Helen warmly thanked Pam, who will be moving soon, for all she has done to help the Center grow and thrive during the past few years. Pam was given a card and flowers from the Commission and members expressed their great appreciation for her kindness and dedicated, hard work enhancing the lives of Weston's seniors. Everyone wished her much happiness in her new community.

It was reiterated that Woody Bliss, Margarita, and Allison Lisbon expect to work on a review of Weston's senior tax relief programs for presentation to the Commission in the fall, which will be in plenty of time for any potential recommendations for changes to be made to the Selectmen and Board of Finance during budget preparations for the next fiscal year.

The room at the Center was needed and discussion was curtailed.

Helen invited anyone who was interested in learning more about New Canaan's programs supportive of local seniors aging-in-place to talk with her about an upcoming informational meeting with Jim Lisher.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gumaer

Approved: 10-4-16