

COMMISSION ON AGING

Minutes

January 9, 2017

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Don Gumaer, Peggy Anderson, Joy Peshkin, Bruce Lorentzen, and Allison Lisbon; Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman; Senior Center Program Coordinator Carla Jegen; Dial-a-Ride driver Gordon Green, SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter; and guests Margarita Garces-Shapiro, Dale Robinson and Woody Bliss

Meeting convened at 9:18 a.m.

Minutes: December 5th minutes were approved by consensus.

Senior Tax Relief Programs: Helen shared a draft memo to the Board of Selectman, worked on with Woody, requesting an annual report be developed and maintained about information on Weston's senior tax relief programs. (A rough draft was first proposed at the last meeting.) Discussion ensued; a final text will be distributed that incorporates the additional recommendation that the Tax Collector send a flyer/brochure about available programs to residents annually with their tax bill(s) and that the same program information be included periodically in *The Weston Forum*.

Margarita and Charlene will review and work with Tax Collector Cathleen McLellan on the text of the current informational flyer. A brief description of each available plan was written by Cathleen and appears in the January/February Senior Center newsletter.

Dial-A-Ride/Transportation: Gordon distributed and reviewed his monthly report. He commented that the new Dial-a-Ride van is warmer than the old one and much more comfortable. It seems more fuel-efficient as well. Riders are enthusiastic though some have noted that the treads on the steps are a little narrower than in the old van; Gordon is alerting them to be cautious.

Friends of the Weston Senior Activities Center: Woody reported that the Friends had been involved in helping to fund 51 activities, programs, trips and/or events during the past year and still has a significant fund balance. Bruce commented that he is still looking to expand the Board and also asked for suggestions on other activities to fund.

SWCAA: Meta was unable to stay and left Don her notes about the last SWCAA meeting, which was smaller than usual. Don and Allison read them to the group.

Weston Social Services: Charlene and Allison reported on their many holiday gift-giving activities and Charlene said that it was very helpful to have Allison working with her. The effort requires a great deal of coordinating between many generous supporters, including individuals, families, and groups (the PTOs, religious groups, and community clubs) and those in need.

Individuals and whole families received items such as gift cards and gift baskets. Charlene again noted that the position of Youth Services Director has still not been filled. Charlene also suggested that the Commission focus on the growing long-term eldercare crisis and said that advocacy is needed at all levels of government. Allison raised the possibility of holding a health fair at the Center and the idea of holding such an event in the spring/summer in the all-purpose room as well as having other space set aside for health screenings was briefly discussed.

WWHD Report: Monica was unable to make the meeting.

Weston Senior Activities Center: Carla reported that things are running smoothly though she remarked that it was a little quieter than usual likely due to colder weather and it being so early in the New Year. Helen noted that Wendy's Senior Services/WSAC next fiscal year budget request meeting with the First Selectman and others at Town Hall was coming up this week and that she and Bruce (if his schedule allows) plan to attend. As unanimously agreed by the Commission last month, the budget request includes increased Center hours and additional staffing hours as well as benefits for Carla.

Commission Business: Helen distributed the 2017 meeting schedule. Election of officers for 2017 was next on the agenda and, after asking for volunteers and nominations from the floor: Helen was nominated to continue serving as Chairman by Bruce, seconded by Don; Bruce was nominated to continue serving as Vice Chairman by Allison, seconded by Helen; and Don was nominated to continue as Secretary by Peggy, seconded by Allison. They were each elected unanimously. A brief discussion ensued about the work of Weston's Strategic Planning Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission. P&Z is currently exploring cluster housing, which could have potential impact on future senior housing options.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gumaer

Approved February 6, 2017