

## COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

February 1, 2016

**Present:** Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Peggy Anderson, Bruce Lorentzen, Don Gumaer, and Joy Peshkin; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman; Dial-a-Ride Driver Gordon Greene, SWCAA liaison Meta Schoeter; and guests Woody Bliss and Dale Robinson.

Helen called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

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

**SWCAA:** Meta reported on the January meeting held in Westport. New and increasing numbers of scams aimed at seniors are becoming a major problem in our area. SWCAA continues to need more CHOICES volunteers. There was discussion about the number of seniors in the region who have never been in their senior centers and about how to attract them. The newly renovated Wilton Senior Center is under budget and on time to open in late February. Concerns that seniors might not have the needed information for tax relief programs in time to take advantage of them before the deadline was also raised.

**Dial-a-Ride:** Gordon reported that though January was a slow month, medical transportation needs were up. (Decisions on the specs for the new excursion bus are needed and a meeting with Gordon, Wendy, and Bruce was scheduled for later in the day.)

**Weston Social Services:** Charlene reported that she had attended a meeting at the new Westport Weston Family Y. They are concerned that area residents consider the Y as just a fitness center and want to better inform the public about the many other programs offered. The cost of membership for seniors in financial need and the possibility of offering free memberships are being considered. A new pilot program from Peter's Market is in place for unsold perishable food making it available for eligible social services clients; a win-win for all.

**Weston Senior Activities Center:** Wendy reported that exercise equipment has been generously offered to the Center for free. However there are questions to be answered before taking advantage of any such offer. Issues were raised including where a fitness area could be established and what other space uses would be lost, how would the equipment be maintained, and how would the safe use of the equipment be assured by supervision and at what cost. The new Weston Senior Center website domain name is still being explored and a final decision will be made soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. (Future meetings will be scheduled for 9:15 a.m.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Gumaer