

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

May 1, 2017

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Don Gumaer, Peggy Anderson, Allison Lisbon and Dale Robinson; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman; Dial-a-Ride driver Gordon Green; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter, and WWHD's Monica Wheeler.

Meeting convened at 9:28 a.m.

SWCAA report: Meta Schroeter reported on both the March and April SWCAA meetings. SWCAA's Sharon Gesek will be offering programs for those new to Medicare this year and is calling it Medicare Boot Camp in an effort to increase attendance. Greenwich has a new partnership with the Alzheimers Association, which will have office hours at the Senior Center every second Wednesday. The Monroe Senior Center has cut the budget for senior lunches and has cut food at events as well. Monroe is beginning a friendly caller program where someone will visit an at-home senior to create a caring connection through conversation. Much of the April SWCAA meeting was devoted to a presentation and discussion of a new Uber pilot program at the Greenwich Senior Center aimed at centralizing coordination of rides. A strong general concern was expressed about proposed cuts in Federal budget support for meeting a range of senior needs.

Dial-a-Ride: Gordon distributed his monthly report, which reflected normal activity levels. He said that, though the relatively new grocery shopping rides program on Friday had started slowly, it is becoming more popular. Gordon mentioned Dial-a-Ride van air-conditioning and radio issues, which he's addressing. It was also noted that excursion bus expeditions are planned for the next few months now that the weather has improved. On-going concern about having additional back-up driving capacity for a variety of potential reasons led to discussion and a suggestion of creating a sub-committee to study this issue over the summer; it will be taken-up again at the Commission's annual long-range planning meeting next month.

Weston Social Services: Charlene reported that her office is still helping seniors with their tax needs/tax relief applications. She is also still working closely with Weston's EMS to coordinate appropriate support to meet non-medical senior needs. Allison continues to have good success in connecting her volunteer pool with seniors requiring specific help. Discussion ensued about the potential value of having a part-time, 'Village'-style staff member (who might most usefully be a social worker and act simultaneously as Weston's Municipal Agent for the Elderly) on hand at the Center on a regular basis (perhaps for ten hours/week). Such a staff member could not only provide seniors with much helpful information, but could become a friendly ear-to-the-ground assessing immediate and immersing needs within the senior community. This issue will also be discussed further at next month's planning meeting.

A new, revised Weston senior tax relief program brochure, prepared by the Tax Collector's office, has been in the works and is almost ready for printing. Discussion ensued and the group

felt that the Town and not the senior center or social services budgets should cover publication costs.

Weston Senior Activities Center: Wendy said that things are going well at the Center and reported on the several excursion bus trips being planned for the spring, including to the Bruce Museum, the Peabody Museum, a Westchester Theater, the White Flower Farm, and to lunch at the Spinning Wheel restaurant in Redding. She announced that this year's annual fundraiser, the Classic Car Show, is scheduled for September 24th with a rain date of October 1st.

Westport Weston Health District: Monica Wheeler announced the annual free skin cancer screening coming up on May 7th and noted that the event had been publicized in the May/June WSAC newsletter.

Friends of Weston Senior Activities Center: Bruce will give a report next month.

Minutes: March minutes were approved as written by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gumaer

Approved: 6-5-17