

***Amended 4/9/15**

COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES

March 9, 2015

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Nina Daniel, Laura Smits, Bruce Lorentzen, Margarita Shapiro, and Don Gumaer; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; and Carla; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter and Gordon, Dial-A-Ride.

Meeting convened at 9:15.

Minutes: The January 2015 Minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus. Since we were unable to hold a February meeting due to weather conditions, there were no minutes from February.

SWCAA: Meta described SWCAA's new headquarter space in Bridgeport. There will be CHOICES training in March. Pat Knebel is conducting site visits for the grant program. The ongoing 6-week Living Well program is searching for new leaders to train. Most towns expect their budgets for seniors to either be reduced or remain the same. All towns are reporting an increased need for fuel assistance due to the long winter. The Senior Housing that was planned for the Baron property in Westport has been voted down by their Planning and Zoning Board, who would like to designate it as "open space." The Wilton Senior Center is getting a state of the art kitchen. There was a presentation by UCONN about a pilot program where seniors can monitor their own health and medical records via personal computers.

Dial-A-Ride: Gordon distributed his reports for January and February. He noted that rides were down due to the severe weather. Gordon has been trying to locate a source to help with some mechanical issues related to the aging van. He has also determined what will be needed in a new bus. Nina asked about the life expectancy of a bus. Gordon stated 8-10 years. Our current bus is 7 years old and has 102,000 miles on it. Discussion ensued.

Senior Center Director: Wendy reported that they are having difficulty attracting new participants due to the cost of classes and materials. There was some discussion as to whether or not people would be interested in paying an annual fee for participation. It was determined not to pursue any changes at this time. Helen thanked everyone for all of their efforts toward the renovation project and that both the public and town officials were impressed with the new space during the ribbon cutting and open house. Wendy said they are waiting on an art hanging system that is on order and a few other things need to be resolved but that the renovation is almost complete.

Communications: The group finalized the mission statement: "The mission of The Weston Senior Activities Center is to serve as the hub of programs and events supporting the well-being of community members as they age." There was a suggestion to include a profile of Senior Center "regulars" in the newsletter, similar to a program used at Norwalk Hospital.

Friends: Arne is creating an oral/historical project planned for March and is trying to get participants. Alden Sherman was suggested.

Helen reiterated the Center's policy to not have guests/speakers who represent for-profit organizations such as "Senior Choice at Home," a long-term care alternative who is presenting a program at the Westport Senior Center. Wendy and Pam will arrange for them to come in, but look for other opportunities as well.

Senior Directory: Helen stated that the Directory is now 5 years old, but that she has a new source to help her update it.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits