COMMISSION ON AGING
JULY MEETING
7/13/09

MINUTES

Commission members present: Lois Miller, Sandy O'Brien, Ernie Albin, Terry Hulley, Peggy Anderson. Also present: Weston Social Services Director Charlene Chaing-Hillman, Senior Center Director Jennifer Ruddy, SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter, Detective Carl Filsinger, Friends of the Weston Senior Center Nancy McCormick and Dial-a-Ride driver Gordon Green.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller at 9:25a.m.

Ernie Albin made a motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting as written, Terry Hulley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Detective Carl Filsinger spoke to the Commission about the Triad Program. According to Carl, Connecticut will soon have the highest per capita senior population in the country. That's the reason he believes Triad is so important to the Weston community. The main objective of Triad is to keep Senior citizens safe from crime, and to reduce fear in the Senior community. Triad needs three elements to make it work: community leaders who support it, merchants and commercial enterprise to fund it, and law enforcement agents to protect Senior Citizens. Chief of Police Troxel and Detective Filsinger are ready to get on board. Terry mentioned the isolation many Seniors feel living in Weston with two acre zoning. A neighborhood watch program was suggested as a good way to address the problem. Carl will be gathering more information about Triad and will update the Commission.

Dial-a-Ride – Gordon Green submitted the May and June reports; 1st and 2nd Quarter 2008; 1st and 2nd Quarter 2009, with totals to date. Gordon said that with 10 riders or less he uses the Dial-a-Ride van. Over ten riders he uses the bus.
Ernie reported that the Commission was advised by Tom Landry that the $16,000 State grant that covers a full time driver for Dial-a-Ride service for Weston Seniors may not be included in the upcoming State budget for the current year. However there are funds in the Morehouse Elderly Assistance account that could be used if needed. Ernie went before the Selectman with a letter requesting that $16,000 be taken from the fund if necessary. The Selectman modified the request up to $16,000 because we may still get some money from the State. Ernie added that the Commission would not want to do this

on a annual basis. Rather the money should be in the Town budget for Dial-a-Ride. Woody Bliss said this would have to be discussed at the annual budget meeting. Gayle Weinstein said she would look into getting the grant money. Tom Landry will provide her with whatever information she needs. Ernie received a call from Leslie Wolf (ITN) who is trying to raise $150,000 as start up money from various towns to establish the ITN program. Ernie said no funds from the Heady Morehouse Fund would be given based on the fact that the bequest is for Weston Seniors. The money contributed would be used for Senior's living in other towns.

Nancy McCormick – Nancy has been involved in working out a conflict of interest that must be settled before she can become the new Senior Center Program Coordinator. The Commission agreed that Nancy would be a huge asset to the Center. Until that issue is cleared up she has put off any work on the Friends.

Senior Center – Jen said the Senior Center will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the summer. The next Senior luncheon will be on September16th. She will have the schedule in the newsletter. Jen still has grant money from the Ed. Foundation to continue computer training. The Commission feels it is important to have more Weston Seniors computer literate. A Senior Center web site was also suggested.

Social Services – Charlene reported that most Weston Seniors are financially stable. The warm – up intake is going well. She is seeing more Senior's in medical crises. Social Services have received very good donations from private individuals, relieving Charlene of the job of asking for special appropriations from the Town. Nancy will meet with Monica Wheeler to try to get peer counseling and other programs going in Weston.

SWCCA – Meta said there is not enough publicity about Weston's Tax Relief Programs. She applied for the tax frieze program, thinking she was qualified for that particular program. She was surprised to learn she actually qualified for the tax abatement program which affords greater benefits. Charlene said she also was eligible for other Social Service benefits. Meta was delighted to hear this, but stated the Town must do a better job getting the tax information to its Senior Citizens. The Commission recommended Jen include an in depth explanation of Weston's tax relief programs in the Senior Center newsletter. Meta talked about the Greenwich Survey. Among its many recommendations for attracting younger Senior's were work out programs and cultural trips. Meta attended the SWCCA June 10 meeting. At the meeting SWCCA reviewed its 4 year plan before submitting it to state level. Six goals were presented. Copies were given out to the Commission members.

Old Business – Lois found an article in The Weston Forum that reported the selectmen have once again decided to advertise for perspective members to serve on a Town Cemetery Committee.

New Business – No meeting in August. Next meeting September 14, 2009.

Ernie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Peggy seconded, and with unanimous approval the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.