

COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
December 3, 2012

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Nina Daniel, Peggy Anderson and Bruce Lorentzen; Senior Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pam Wilson, Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Dial-a-Ride driver Gordon Green, SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter, First Selectman Gayle Weinstein, and guests Mr. and Mrs. Bur Goode.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 A.M.

Mr. and Mrs. Goode gave public input to the Commission including the suggestion that the town should provide a senior services coordinator for seniors who desire to age in place.

Social Services: Charlene gave a fuel assistance report. She noted that 85 gifts/cards were provided for the holiday. Kiwanis approved \$5,000 for holiday needs and the Westport Weston Foundation is giving \$4,000 to address the increase in senior needs, either physical or financial. Money from the sale of United Way's real estate space in Westport is still not forthcoming. NEON was briefly discussed. Meals-on-Wheels has a new contract with Creative Culinary that raises the cost of meals (essentially doubling it) but also their quality; there will need to be an increase in the budget for this program next year.

Gayle Weinstein gave a report on North House: A decision by the Board of Education on offering the space to the town is scheduled for the Board's December 17th meeting. It is unclear which town offices might be able to join the Senior Center in the North House. A parking study is essential and other planning needs to be developed over the next couple of years and beyond. She will be attending the senior lunch to explain where we are regarding a possible Center move. At the December 20th Board of Selectmen's meeting there will be interviews for Commission on Aging members.

Gordon distributed his monthly report.

Emergency Preparedness follow-up: Wendy said that preparedness reminders would be included in upcoming newsletters noting such things as the usefulness of having a landline (copper wire) phone in emergencies.

Meta presented her SWCAA report that included news about the Agency and its Advisory Board, Medicare/Medicare part D program information and deadlines, and a summary of community reports including highlights of a discussion of the role town governments played related to seniors during and following the recent storm Sandy.

Weston Senior Activities Center (WSAC) update: Facilities in flux as discussions continue among the Board of Selectmen and the Boards of Ed and Finance. Activities and programs include a holiday party set for Dec. 20th. The holiday gift sale went well and was fun. Movies and luncheons are also going well. Discussion of bus trips and other transportation issues ensued, including the possibility of arranging marketing trips.

2011-2012 Budget preparation is in progress and is due on December 13th. Wendy and Pam will consider requesting extra hours in anticipation of meeting the needs at the expanded Center. (It was noted that all other area senior centers are open more hours and/or days than Weston's is.)

Friends of the WSAC report: Woody's Backgammon Club starts tomorrow and there is good interest. His successful genealogy class will be offered again in the spring as needed. The Friends is planning a senior lifestyles fair for March 23rd.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Daniel
Acting secretary