

COMMISSION ON AGING  
MAY MEETING  
05/04/09

MINUTES

Commission members present: Ernie Albin, Peggy Anderson, Louellen Bartholomae, Helen de Keijzer, Terry Hulley, and Lois Miller. Also present: Weston Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Senior Center Director Jennifer Ruddy and Program Coordinator Krista Hayward, First Selectman Woody Bliss, WWHD (Westport Weston Health District) Director of Emergency Preparedness and Support Services Ken Kellogg, and Dial-a-Ride driver Gordon Green.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller at 9:15 a.m. Terry Hulley made a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting as written, Ernie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Social Services Report:

Charlene said that Tom Landry has confirmed that Weston seniors may use the free Dial-a-Ride transport to attend the Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> program on the economic crisis at the Westport Library. The program, the first in a series, will focus on strategies to protect oneself in difficult economic times.

Information about the Independent Transportation Network (ITN) will be presented at the next senior luncheon on May 6th. The committee organizing the regional ITN is still seeking a Weston representative. Ernie will investigate the possibility of Heady funds being used to support the effort. No tax dollars have been used. Grants have already come through from the United Way and other sources. The group needs approximately \$150,000 to start-up. The regional network will incorporate with the national ITN which offers extensive administrative and other support. The group hopes to be able to launch the program this year.

Charlene commented that the LINKS (Westport/Weston At Home) organizing group is also still looking for a representative from Weston for their steering committee.

Charlene reported that numerous shut-off notices are being received by seniors and families in town. She is paying out thousands of dollars to help.

Woody and Ken Kellogg came to the Commission meeting to provide a timely up-date on the status of the H1N1 virus (swine flu) in our area and to answer questions. Ken or Mark Cooper, WWHD Director will be available to speak at the senior luncheon as soon as scheduling is arranged.

#### Senior Center Report:

Lois asked Jen to comment further on her experience at the annual National Conference on Aging in Las Vegas. Jen said that she was not satisfied with the offerings this year. Everything was very technical and there was a strong emphasis on measurability of outcomes. Funds to attend next year are in the budget, but she may not attend.

The local Domestic Violence Task Force has provided some materials on senior abuse to the Senior Center. Discussion on how to increase awareness of the issue was discussed. Peggy will follow-up . Also, Louellen will contact Kim Donnelly, editor at the Weston Forum, about putting relevant material in the paper.

Lois spoke to Detective Carl Filsinger about presenting information on the Triad program at the Center. He is very interested in the program and learning more about it.

#### SWCCA Report:

SWCCA liaison Meta Schroeter was unable to attend. Meta has been attending classes organized by SWCCA and will be certified as a medicare counselor at the end of the program. She is planning to volunteer as a counselor to Weston seniors.

#### Weston Senior Resources & Services Directory:

A meeting to discuss the Friends of the Senior Center initiative as well as the new Directory is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Helen asked that Commissioners be thinking about what to include in the directory, how many to print, etc.

#### Dial-a-Ride Report:

Gordon said that ridership is up and distributed his written report. As requested, the new report form provides more information than in the past.

There was no old business

New business: Lois distributed an up-dated Commission member information list. WWHD Director Mark Cooper is scheduled to attend the June Commission meeting. Sandy will be unable to attend the May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> meetings.

Lois made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Peggy seconded it, and with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Submitted by Sandy O'Brien