

COMMISSION ON AGING
(Draft)
MINUTES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Present: Commission members Bruce Lorentzen, Helen de Keijzer, Don Gumaer, Peggy Anderson, Allison Lisbon, Dale Robinson and Richard Wolf; SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter, Senior Center Director Wendy Petty, Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Dial-a-Ride Roy March, guests First Selectman Chris Spaulding and Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz.

Meeting convened at 9:18 AM.

Minutes of the February 5th meeting were approved as written.

Dial-a-Ride: Roy reported that the month of February continued to be a bit slow with 25 individuals using the service with 1,170 miles driven.

SWCAA: February's meeting was held at the Trumbull site of the Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern Connecticut. Medicare Savings Plan (MSP) continues to be a huge concern to the senior population. Marie Allen reminded all to spread the word to contact our legislature reps. It is the older population that votes in the highest percentages and that these are the people that are in need of retaining the levels of eligibility of these benefits. Right now the legislature has only extended the current levels to June 30, 2018 and on July 1, 2018 the levels will be cut nearly in half if they do not find a solution.

Chris Spaulding spoke to the commission about his concerns about using "CodeRed" too often and not saving it for only true life threatening emergencies. He wanted the commission to think about solutions to reach out to our seniors when a non "CodeRed" emergency approaches (like a nor'easter snow storm). Richard asked Chris about possible budget increases to allow for back up drivers and more paid hours for Charlene. Discussion on simplifying the tax reduction programs that are easy to understand by all was a topic that will need to be addressed further.

Weston Social Services: Charlene reported that she has concerns about meeting the fuel help demands for this last half of the winter season. She discussed the various oil and electric help that's available for our town. Spring vetting begins for seniors who will need help for next winter.

Weston Senior Activities Center: Wendy reported that all is well with the center. Reassurance call lists and evacuation support, as well as the town's CodeRed system was discussed. Discussion on how to maximize the effectiveness of reaching out to help seniors be prepared and feel safe and connected during emergencies.

Facilities discussion of what is needed for long-range center planning followed. What do we need to offer a good senior center? Are we limited with serving the senior community with the facility we now have – activities, programs and parking? We need to discuss what would be a perfect senior center and in long term planning what needs to be in place.

Friends of the Center: Meeting was postponed

Due to the lateness of the hour, developing in house experts and other commission business was postponed until the next meeting in April.

Bruce adjourned the meeting at 11:04 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Gumaer

**Minutes of the February 5, 2018 were approved, as written at
the monthly meeting on March 5, 2018.**