

## SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2016

**Present:** Kathy Bagley, Kathi Liberman, Tony Martino, Christine Taylor, Chris Skowronek, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Henry Hornat, Henry Higbee, Barbara Higbee, Lisa Galipo

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Joe Mehan and seconded by Clair Mehan to accept the minutes of the October meeting. The minutes were approved.

### **Old Business:**

- **Membership:** Kathy Liberman encouraged the group to continue to search for new members.
- **Financial Update:** Lisa Galipo reported that she took out a full-page ad with the Rare Reminder for \$200 leaving our account balance at \$1600.

### **New Business:**

**Annual Conference:** Lisa Galipo reported that the Banquet Room is available to hold the spring event on 5/11 or 5/18. The group agreed to 5/11. Lisa will book the room from 12noon to 4:30pm on that date. Lisa read an email from Police Chief Cetran who indicated it would be difficult to do a prescription take back day for the event, but he will look into it further. She also reported that the Trash Museum has permanently closed due to lack of funding. The Green Monster recycling company recycles tech equipment only and is only available for events during the morning hours. The group noted we could collect items and ask for a pick up the next day but items would need to be stored overnight. Lisa noted the MDC has a nice brochure regarding recycling on their website that could be used as a handout but they would not be available for the event. She also contacted the library regarding a book collection, but has not heard back. Kathy Bagley agreed to contact Brook Berry at the library. It was noted that few resources appear available for the event and it needs to be determined if the committee would want to be responsible for getting collected items to their final destination. Kathi Liberman agreed to contact Paine's to see if they had any service to offer.

### **Committee Reports**

**Council Liaison--**Tony Martino reported:

- There was no Council meeting in November due to the elections
- Merging of the IT functions of the Town and Board of Education is proceeding well and merging maintenance functions will occur next leading to significant savings
- The process of installing security cameras at all Town schools in almost completed
- The Town has re-signed with the clean energy program
- The State offered the property at 170 Ridge Road to the Town for \$250,000. The Town refused the offer since clean-up at the site would probably cost \$2 million.
- The Council is in talks with the State Board of Education regarding finances

**Clergy--**Pastor Chris Skowronek reported:

- He has contacted all of the churches in Town to see what services are being offered to seniors. He will probably have a list to distribute next month.

Wethersfield Housing Authority--Kathi Liberman reported:

- Renovations to the units at 60 Lancaster Road will be completed this month
- Authority residents recently completed a collection for the troops working with Blue Star Mothers. Joe & Claire Mehan offered to work with Kathi on this collection next year as the Setback group would like to participate
- Entitlement programs including energy assistance are on-going
- The Authority's Thanksgiving lunch will be held 11/22 thanks to a CHFA grant

Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent--Chris Taylor reported:

- Energy assistance applications are being taken including at outreach events to the Town's housing sites
- Medicare Open Enrollment continues until 12/7
- New volunteers are needed for the Friendly Visitor/Shopper program
- 115 residents/families have signed up for the Social & Youth Services turkey distribution on Saturday
- Free home repairs are available through the Homefront Program. The deadline for applications is 12/13
- OPM budget cuts are pending that would affect the Tax Credit program for homeowners and renters. The homeowners program runs 2/1-5/15.
- Social Security recipients will receive a .3% increase in 2017 but most of that increase will be taken away with increased Medicare premiums

People with Disabilities--Chris Taylor reported:

- The Thanksgiving party was held last night and was well attended
- The Holiday party is scheduled for 12/14
- The Committee gave feedback regarding ramps installed in Town

Senior Center Activities--Lisa Galipo reported on the activities planned for December and handed out the December newsletter.

Social Services--Kathy Bagley reported:

- This year the Keane Foundation which sponsors the Cove Park Carnival has voted to donate all the proceeds from the Carnival to the Food Pantry
- Stop & Shop did a major food drive and collected 80 turkeys and 140 boxes of food for the food pantry

The next regular meeting will be held on January 19, 2017 at 3:00pm in the Fireside Room.

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Mehan and seconded by Barbara Higbee. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Galipo