

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - October 20, 2005

Present: Vice-Chair Jane Helen Ross, Christine Taylor, Kathleen Bagley, Donna Mattison, Kathi Liberman, Estelle Knurek, Gerry Seklecki, Elizabeth Smith. Guests were Beth Knapp, Bertha Keenan, Claire Mehan, Joe Mehan, Seth English and Lillian Edwards.

1. Election of New Chairperson.

Tabled until next meeting.

2. Call to Order.

Vice Chair Jane Helen Ross opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

3. Public Comments.

Vice Chair Jane Helen Ross welcomed the public to the meeting. She asked the members of the public to introduce themselves and then asked the committee members to go around the table and introduce themselves. Mrs. Ross asked if guests had any comments for the committee. The guests in attendance mentioned they came to the meeting to find out about the committee and its role for senior citizens. Lillian Edwards discussed with the committee some concerns she had with the Senior Citizen Club in Wethersfield. Ms. Bagley explained that the Senior Citizen Club was sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, but the seniors have the autonomy to run their own club and set their own rules. Mrs. Edwards had some issues with the membership dues going up and functions held by the Senior Citizen's Club. Ms. Bagley explained to the committee that the Executive Board of the Senior Citizen's Club sets up their functions and has the authority to make recommendations for increases in their membership dues. Ms. Bagley will talk with the officers of the Senior Citizen Club to look into these issues.

4. Minutes.

Ms. Liberman moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were seconded by Gerry Seklecki and approved unanimously.

5. Old Business.

a. Budget Expenditures.

Committee members reviewed the budget report in their packet. Donna Mattison explained the options available for purchasing the *Rare Reminder* ad. She explained that Option 1 for eight months included four months of a half page ad at \$380 and four months of a full page ad at \$760 for a total of \$1,140. Option 2 was six months at a half page ad for \$570 and two months of a full page ad at \$380 for total of \$950. Each of these options would leave a small balance in budget for other items. Committee members discussed how they might use the remaining budget funds. Members will discuss ideas for the remainder of the budget funds at their next meeting. One suggestion was to help with the volunteer recognition event in the spring of 2006.

b. Vacancies of Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

Vice Chair Jane Helen Ross reported that there are three vacancies on the committee. One vacancy needs to be filled by a person with a health or medical background. One vacancy is for an at large position and one vacancy is for an alternate position. Mrs. Ross also reported that she anticipates Reverend Vancuss will be resigning from the committee. Mrs. Ross reported that Reverend Vancuss felt she had already submitted a letter to the town on her resignation. Ms. Bagley will follow up on this issue.

- c. Ms. Bagley gave new members and guests at the meeting an overview on the responsibilities of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee and a brief history on the committee. She explained that the committee is made up of members with expertise in certain areas to provide a good cross section of information on the committee. The committee sets goals and works towards achieving those goals within the resources of the committee. Donna Mattison reported that one of the main goals of the committee is to disseminate information to the senior citizen population in town. She explained that the *Rare Remainder* ad has been a very effective way of getting information out to all the seniors in town because it goes to every household and its advertising rates are the least expensive of any of the local papers. She also distributed copies of the monthly newsletter that are dropped off around town and available for senior citizens to pick up at the library and the Community Center. She explained that this newsletter has more detailed information. Any information going into the newsletter has to be given to her at the beginning of each month for the upcoming month because her information is due to the printer the tenth of each month. Mrs. Mattison also distributed some copies of the description of the committee from the town charter. This description will be copied and put in all members' packets for the next meeting.

6. New Business.

- a. Review Goals for Upcoming Years.

These goals were tabled in order for members to review them and discuss them at the next meeting.

- b. Election of Secretary - Tabled.

7. Reports.

- a. AARP.

Gerri Seklecki reported they have 230 members and their trips and programs are ongoing.

- b. Elderly Services Coordinator.

Christine Taylor reported that they are getting geared up for their case management particularly with the upcoming heating season. She also reported that they will be holding informational sessions on the new Medicare Part D program. These sessions will be held on October 27 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and November 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Upcoming flu clinic dates for people 65 and older will be Tuesday, November 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Rocky Hill Community Center. She also reported that the Wethersfield Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities are setting up visits to the group homes throughout town to provide information to the residents.

- c. Wethersfield Housing Authority.

Kathi Liberman reported that some members brought to her attention that the dial-a-ride van did not have seat belts in it and that the people were not feeling safe in the vans. Also with the wheelchair locking mechanisms in the van sometimes it was difficult to navigate around protrusions in the floor. Christine Taylor said she would bring these items back to her office for review with staff.

- d. Senior Center Coordinator.

Donna Mattison reported that program enrollment is doing well and that there are eight new classes for Senior Net. She asked committee members what to do for the November *Rare Reminder* ad and a motion was made by Kathi Liberman and voted by Gerry Seklecki to do a half page ad in November.

8. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

