

SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, October 16, 2014

Present: Kathi Liberman, Christine Taylor, Lisa Galipo, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Kathy Bagley, Tony Martino, Chris Skowronek

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

Minutes: Minutes from the September 18, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously: motion by Joe Mehan and seconded by Claire Mehan.

Old Business:

- **Committee Membership:** Joe Mehan reported that he created a flyer about the SCAC and its need for new members which he handed out at the recent Senior Center Open House. Lisa also reported there is a notice in the November Senior Center newsletter regarding the need for new members.
- **Financial Update:** Lisa Galipo reported there is a balance of \$1,500 in our account.

New Business:

- **Spring Educational Event:** Kathi Liberman inquired if anyone had ideas for the upcoming spring event. Chris Taylor suggested a health fair. Claire Mehan suggested some type of healthy food event with cooking demonstrations. Joe suggested having tables regarding homemade household products. The Committee will work to develop these ideas.

Committee Reports:

Council Liaison: Tony Martino reported:

- The Town is working on economic development. He noted a gym is coming to the space Office Depot is vacating on the Silas Deane and two or three tenants are interested in the space Weight Watchers is vacating. The Town Planner is also talking to potential tenants about the Fun Zone site.
- The Town continues to deal with abatement issues at the High School.
- He noted the Town has moved \$1.8 million into the OPEC fund to cover retiree medical benefits. The fund has close to \$10 million. It needs \$60 million to be fully funded.
- The Town's bond rating is up to AA++

Wethersfield Housing Authority: Kathi Liberman reported:

- The Authority is getting ready for the holidays
- She is working on the energy assistance program and Medicare Open Enrollment with tenants.

Clergy: Pastor Chris Skowronek had no report at this time.

Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Chris Taylor reported:

- Social & Youth Services has developed a schedule of outreach visits to senior housing sites

- to take Energy Assistance applications
- 56 town residents participated in the Energy Blitz on 9/17. The department is now booking appointments for January.
 - The Rent Rebate program is now closed. A total of 474 town residents applied.
 - Case management and the Friendly Visitor/Friendly Shopper programs are ongoing.

People with Disabilities: Chris Taylor reported:

- The group needs to members
- Incarnation Church will be having a Senior Fair on 10/23
- The WHS Jets program is 40 members strong. They reported that their engineering students are working on inventions that will benefit CW Resources.
- Natalie has several fund raising efforts underway including a Thanksgiving program on 11/17 to benefit her Therapeutic Rec program
- The Town continues to install handicapped sidewalk corners that increase traction throughout town and is currently working on Wolcott Hill.
- A concern was discussed about straps and seat belts on Curtain vans being in poor condition

Senior Center Activities: Lisa Galipo reported:

- The day trip to the Log Cabin in Holyoke, MA is scheduled for this weekend and 52 seniors have signed up
- The Senior Center Open House was held on 10/10 and was a success. Approximately 100 people attended
- The Senior Center is working with Parks & Rec to streamline registration. In the new year seniors will be registering for programs on line or in writing. No more phone registrations will be accepted. This process will computerize the registration process and monies collected for programs which will free up time for Lisa to devote to programming.

Wethersfield Seniors Club: Joe Mehan reported:

- The Halloween Party will be held on Friday 10/31. It falls on Setback day this year.

Social & Youth Services: Kathy Bagley reported:

- The Department is looking for donations for its fuel fund which helps residents with 100 gallons of fuel oil when they exhaust their State assistance. Joe Mehan inquired if unused oil might be donated from residents who are converting from oil to gas. Kathy believes there may be liability issues that would prevent this.
- The Department is soliciting food for the Thanksgiving basket give away and gifts for the holiday gift program. These programs service over 100 families.
- A new full-time Assistant Director has been hired for the department, Erica Texeira. She has a Masters in Marriage and Family therapy and is licensed. She currently works for a non-profit in Waterbury called Wellmore Behavior Center. She will begin work here on October 27.
- The Keane Foundation Carnival is this weekend

A motion to adjourn was made by Joe Mehan and seconded by Claire Mehan. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Galipo