

Minutes
Commission on Aging
Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 24, 2010 @ 10:00 A.M.
Seymour Senior Center

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 3/27/10
TIME: 4:15 pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Members present: Joan Gee, Harry Marks, Evelyn Molner, Phyllis Jachimowski, Bonnie Wilkes,
Others Present: Lucy McConologue

- Meeting called to order by Joan Gee at 10:03 A.M.
- All present stated the Pledge of Allegiance
- There was no public comment.
- The minutes of the 2/24/2010 Organizational meeting were approved, with one revision. The Area Agency on Aging RFP for grants was due on 2/10/2010. Motion-Harry Marks, Second, Phyllis Jachimowski. All others in favor.
- The minutes of the 3/10/2010 meeting were approved with the following revisions:
Item # 8 should read one gift card per month (drawing held among members)
Item #9 should read 25 cents, not \$25.
Item #10-Lucy states the \$50 figure monthly is not correct.
Motion-Harry Marks; Second-Phyllis Jachimowski; all in favor
- Joan Gee reported on the FOI meeting she attended on 03/04/2010. A motion to post the schedule of the Commission on Aging meetings on the newsletter of the Seymour Senior Center was made by Harry Marks, seconded by Bonnie Wilkes. All present approved.
- Joan Gee reported on a meeting she and Harry Marks attended at the Norman Ray House on 03/04/2010. The meeting was attended by residents of the Norman Ray House. The residents expressed a desire for more information concerning senior activities.
- **Survey/Needs Assessment**
A special meeting will be held on 4/7/2010 at 10:00 am to refine the survey and discuss distribution methods. Southbury Elderly Services recently completed a needs assessment and the director, Sharon Gesek, graciously shared the document with the Commission.
- **Senior Center Newsletter**
A lengthy discussion was held on the newsletter content and distribution.
Per Lucy, the newsletter is distributed via the Senior bus; the senior center; faxed to Senior housing sites; and faxed to area newspapers. Joan Gee stated that the residents of the Norman Ray House relayed the information that they did not always see the newsletter. All members of the commission agreed that there is a need for greater distribution and exposure. Current and correct information should be on the newsletter. The hours of the senior center will be listed on the newsletter as 9-5 (hours open to the public.) Commission on Aging meetings dates will be posted. To immediately aid in the distribution of the newsletter, Harry Marks volunteered to hand deliver the newsletter to the senior housing sites and the library. Other potential drop off

sites such as supermarkets and pharmacies, were also discussed.

The cost of mailing the newsletters was discussed. Lucy provided some information on the cost of bulk mailings. Several questions arose which Lucy was asked to follow up and provide specifics at the next meeting.

The content of the newsletter was discussed. Upcoming activities were discussed. There was also a discussion of exploring more activities and outreach to the the community for low cost presenters.

- **Transportation**

Lucy states the bus is completely grant-funded. It is used for shopping and transportation to medical appointments in the Valley. Gasoline is paid by the town; wages and maintenance are covered under the grant. Joan Gee moved that all records pertaining to the bus (maintenance, safety checks, logs of passengers, etc.) should be maintained and retained at the Senior Center. Motion was seconded and all were in favor. Lucy McConologue will be the keeper of the records. A motion was raised by Harry Marks to explore the possibility of using the bus for other senior activities, such as trips. Phyllis Jachimowski seconded and all were in favor. Joan Gee will follow up on this as to any grant restrictions.

Lucy also stated that a town van is available to the Senior Center.

- **Budget**

The Elderly Services budget was reviewed.

- **Grants/Donations**

Joan Gee posed the question to Lucy McConologue why previous grants were not requested (i.e. recent grants through the local Area on Aging.) Lucy stated that other agencies obtain these grants as she can not provide these services. The Senior center "piggybacks" on these grants with other agencies.

There was discussion on the above as the point was made that other Senior centers (such as Oxford) have applied and received such grants.

Lucy stated she is in the process of requesting a grant for a new bingo machine; she states the need exists. This is an expensive (\$10,000) item.

Joan Gee inquired as to what grants have been requested in the past; also are any pending now?

Lucy stated the only grant pending is the grant for the bingo machine.

Joan mentioned that Christine Battis works with the Town of Seymour in obtaining grants and asked Lucy to contact her.

There have been no recent donations to the Senior Center.

- **Membership**

In response to a question from this Commission as to statistics, Lucy stated the number of paid memberships in the Senior Center is 73. Lucy also stated the people are allowed to use the facility without paying, and also stated that this 73 does not include members over 80 years of age, who may or may not be paid members.

It was stated by Joan Gee that statistics as to the number of members is important when applying for grants; a current, strong, membership may bode well for grant approval.

- **Activities/Senior Trips**

This topic was covered in the discussion of the monthly Senior Center Newsletter.

- **Stove/Grill**

A request for a working stove was made by the officers of the Senior Center. The Commission is in favor of obtaining a stove for the Senior Center. Harry Marks made the motion, and Phyllis Jachimowski seconded the motion. All were in favor. Joan Gee will meet with the Senior Center officers and discuss the group's possible contribution. The meeting is scheduled for April 5th.

- There was no public comment.
- Commission reviewed and suggested items for the agenda for the Special Special Meeting of April 7, 2010.
- **Adjournment.**
Motion to adjourn at 3:10 pm.
Motion: Joan Gee
Second : Harry Marks
All present in favor

Respectfully Submitted by:

Bonnie C. Wilkes
Secretary-Commission on Aging