

Commission on aging – Minutes of March 17, 2008 8:30 AM

Present: Mrs. Jeanette Perlman, Mr. Peter Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Voorhees, Mrs. Lorna Barrett, Mrs. Beth Trott, Mrs. Jill Finch, and Mr. John Jenner

Eleanor Jettmar, Guest

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Jeanette Perlman, co-chair person.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January meeting.

For lack of a quorum at the last meeting the November minutes were not approved. We will approve them at the close of this meeting

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Beth reported that she is waiting for a CO in order to make use of the Senior Center. She is postponing the Thank You Volunteer Tea until she has occupancy.

TRUST

Through the efforts of Mrs. Barrett, the Senior Center was awarded monies from the Charles Spear Trust in New York City in the amount of \$6,000. These funds will be used for furniture, stove and hood, computers, etc.

GRANT

Mrs. Trott reported that the \$3,000 grant request from Cheryl Jackson, which is a state grant, will be for the TV, DVD and VCR players. There is \$5,140 in the Friends fund which must be spent by June, 2008. This went toward the doors. There are several other items to be donated and purchased.

OUTSIDE MEETINGS

Mrs. Trott and Mrs. Berger attended a meeting of the organization called "Hawkwing". This group's purpose is to promote cross-cultural education while it meets the basic needs of the Lakota people who are living in the worst living conditions in our country.

Mrs. Trott will make our Sherman School aware of this program.

Ethical Dilemma Conference June 12, \$12.00 per ticket 12:30-3:30 with Michael Rionin in Glastonbury.

On May 2, 2008 Health Conference Jill Jackson at Ledyard at Mohigan Sun 8:30 – 4:30 PM.

Budget Hearing: Mr. Peter Cohen, Ms. Jeanette Perlman , and Mrs. Trott presented the request for a second driver for 8 hours at a cost of \$5,000. The COA has a budget of \$1550. The budget was approved by the Board of Selectman.

Beth researched the cost of TV, phones, internet and found that bundling all together would be most cost effective.

Budget for Senior Center was \$60,995 last year and will increase to \$67,402 for 2008. Jeanette reported that there is much support for the Symposium. Jeanette suggested that we should consider marketing a must for the next one.

SYMPOSIUM

Technology for seniors Symposium in the fall will focus on seniors at home being safe and the latest in all technology. There are a number of former employees of IBM in Sherman community- which may be of assistance and we will invite other vendors to be present at Symposium. October 18, 2008 is the date 9-12pm.

There are many beneficial options with the technology for seniors, such as medical records, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Peter reported on the bus grant DOT \$38,000. We cannot use the leased van with grant when we purchase the new van. Deadline for grant is March. This is about ½ the cost. Mrs. Finch indicated that there is not much communication available on grants for buses and that our local representatives should apprise us of this information.

HOUSING

Small City grants are available, Ms. Jeanette Perlman reported. There is \$12,000,000 in a housing development fund which is ear-marked for lower to middle income people. This is administered through HUD. It must go into Master Plan. Mr. Ed Hayes will set guidelines for group which will discuss housing for the elderly.

STATE GRANTS

Ms. Perlman reported on a State grant from WCAAA. She thought we should apply for it and fund the Mind Sharpener Program from New England Cognitive Center or the Science Brain Fitness Center. April 18th is the dead line. This is a technology driven program for 55-60 using mind games group use.

Peter presented articles which he received from the Schuberts. Mrs. Trott asked him to review them. He suggested we offer copies to seniors if they would like them.

B. Mr. John Jenner reported that he and Ms. Jeanette Perlman attended Selectmen's meeting. He reviewed the results.

It was suggested that we place flyers at various businesses in town to create awareness as to what is available for seniors. Another suggestion was to ask American Pie if they would like to use placemats announcing upcoming events.

HOUSING

C. Housing regarding Beacon Hill and other models was presented but we will wait until Natalie Sirkin can return. Chore Service was also presented as a possibility to help seniors.

We will have an in-house exercise program in place as soon as we can occupy the Senior Center.

Sloan Museum is looking for volunteers.

Lorna Barrett announced there would be a seminar for women at the JCC on the subject of health. This is sponsored by the VNA and New Milford Hospital.

Ms. Perlman and Mr. Jenner attended the Selectman's meeting and presented the results of the Survey.

First Selectman Andrea O'Connor will present the Master Plan on April 5th 2008.

We will continue discussion on April 21st. Ms. Perlman asked that the Commissioners be prepared to suggest ideas for the Plan of Conservation and Development at our next meeting. Mr. Jenner and Ms. Perlman are on the Senior Citizen Housing Fact Finding Committee together with Mr. Ed Hayes who is spearheading this committee.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jenner and seconded by Mrs. Voorhees.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Dorn,

Clerk