

Sherman Commission on Aging

Minutes

March 13, 2012

Present: Carol Voorhees, Beth Trott, Jeanette Perlman, Jill Finch, Peter Cohen, John Jenner. Lynne Gomez, Clerk. Guest: Steve Roffwarg, chair of Sherman Housing Commission.

Minutes: Minutes of the February meeting were approved as read. During course of meeting, an amendment was voted to the minutes. Motion to remove reference to a state statute regarding mandated affordable housing in housing mix. Motion approved. Document attached re: state mandate on affordable housing.

Director's Report: Beth Trott asked commissioners to continue to write to Congressmen requesting restoration of cuts to Medicare savings and transportation budgets. Peter Cohen noted that Forbes Magazine just listed CT as the worst state to retire to.

Beth noted that Friends of the Center are in process of purchasing a sound system for the Senior Center. It would work in the hall and on the bus.

Budget is currently in BOS hands. Discussion followed of ADA requirement that two people attend senior center trips. We are lucky to have a bus driver who is willing to help with participants, Beth said. Jeanette discussed a new federal grant for transportation and Beth agreed to apply for it. Jeanette also mentioned a "Vigorous Mind" grant that would add to programming at the center.

Housing Commission: Steve Roffwarg reviewed the status of the Housing Commission's work. The COA and Housing Commission will work together on a housing forum. Steve noted that the focus of the housing forum will be informational. Extensive discussion followed. Topics included, 1) possibility of leasing land from the town and getting survey, soil and water tests done, 2) breadth and scope of the proposed forum, 3) denial of STEAP grant, 4) variety of towns in the area, including Kent, Darien, and Greenwich that have senior housing, 5) benefits to community of senior housing, 6) benefits of proposed location in terms of access to town. Two dates were proposed for the Sherman Housing Forum: June 2 or June 9. A joint meeting of the COA and the Housing Commission will be held on March 26 at 6 p.m. at the Sherman School in the school cafeteria. Jeanette noted that a collaboration of the COA and the Housing Commission is a very positive move.

Mission and Bylaws: a review of the mission and bylaws of the Commission on Aging is underway by the COA. The review will be conducted in tandem with what the state has

outlined. Jeanette noted that the Sherman COA stands out in the state and have been complimented by COAs of other towns and given counsel on operations and standards. State mission guidelines include COAs acting as an agent of counsel for other town commissions in outreach to programs for aging. COA has fulfilled that objective through proposed collaborative work with the Housing Commission.

Administrative Business: A motion was made by John Jenner and seconded by Carol Voorhees, to have Jeanette Perlman and Peter Cohen serve as co-chairs of the Commission on Aging. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Peter Cohen, following discussion, to remove reference in minutes of February to state statutes regarding 10 percent of housing market devoted to “affordable” housing. Motion was seconded by Carol Voorhees. The motion was approved unanimously. Documentation regarding state statutes regarding housing mix are attached.

Aging Advocate: John Jenner will have an article ready on the Library. Peter will work on a piece regarding the COA and its mission. In May, Diana, Jeanette and Jill will work on a piece about emergency management.

Triad: Beth and Suzette will be attending a meeting on TRIAD March 28 in Bridgeport.

Senior Transportation: John Jenner opened discussion of possible campaign to raise funds for transportation for the senior center. Carol noted that FISH volunteers drive seniors to medical appointments year round. The Senior Center van takes seniors on trips and shopping. Beth noted that since September 2011, the senior center has asked those who can to donate to offset the cost of transportation. The cut in state funds has been 25 percent. John suggested the Friends of the Senior Center might be the vehicle for the donations and campaign for transportation funds. John will send a proposal to the Friends.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peter and seconded by Carol Voorhees. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 16 at the Senior Center at 8:30 a.m.

Submitted:

Lynne Gomez
Clerk