

Sherman Commission on Aging

Minutes

July 22, 2013.

Present: John Jenner, Cherryl Hawkins, Jill Finch, Peter Cohen, Lorna Barrett. Director of Social Services, Beth Trott. Coordinator of Senior Center, Suzette Berger. Clerk, Lynne Gomez. Guest, Pat Bailey and Stanley Ginsberg.

Senior Center Coordinator Report: Suzette Berger, coordinator of the senior center, presented her report. She showed the microphone which was purchased for the van and the small group meetings. The Gatekeeper program will be held in October after the COA meeting. Newsletter is going to print. Suzette reported that the newsletter is not being mailed but being inserted in the Citizen News on a quarterly basis. Cost to insert: \$100. Cost to product: \$145. 2,000 copies each quart sent to the Citizen News for use in the Sherman issues. Budget cuts allow Suzette to do only a front page and calendars. Only one photo. John encouraged more use of photos.

Suzette is planning to do more cooperative programming with other groups in town. Discussion followed on use of the van. New van driver, Bob Reiling, is working out well. He is a bus driver and very experienced. Deb will continue to drive as a substitute.

Men's breakfast, started by Cindy Merritt in 2013, has not continued. Suzette will work on other plans to encourage men to participate at the Senior Center. Beth noted that the new student intern is a young man, Manny Colon, who may have interest in developing programming designed for men.

Senior Dine, a nutrition program through the State of CT, provides meals at \$3.50 per meal. Participating restaurants include American Pie and Elenni's in Woodbury. Discussion followed on Senior Dine.

Director of Social Services: Beth reported that she is now working fully for Social Services. She will have 2 student interns for 28 free social work hours. Beth was working 30 hours Salary, but now she is working 25 hours. Lynne is up from 10 hours per week to 15 hours per week.

Beth, as director of ADA in Sherman, discussed the acquisition of the Williams Sound ADA system. The system includes 2 microphones and 4 receivers and 4 headphones. It also includes a necklace inductor wire. It will allow 4 hard-of-hearing people to have the words of the speaker be transmitted directly to their hearing aids. The system eliminates the distortion. The loop does the same thing. The Williams Sound ADA system costs \$1,119.00. Discussion followed. Pat Bailey was involved in the discussion.

A motion was made by Lorna Barrett, and seconded by John Jenner, to ask Beth Trott to make a recommendation to the Selectmen to purchase the Williams Sound System ADA Compliance Starter Kit. Motion held unanimously.

Oral History: Peter and John received praise for their efforts creating Oral History tapes. The program went well. Discussion of next year began.

Aging Advocate: Oral History is waiting to be published. Affordable housing has been done. Upcoming ideas: Hearing article on the attempts to make the senior center accessible to the hearing impaired. Commissioners were asked to bring some ideas for articles to the Sept. meeting.

Sherman Steps Up!: Sherman Steps Up! was discussed. Plans were made for the Aug. 10 meeting at 8:30 am

Housing update: Working on creating the 501c3. This week Jeanette met with DOT to look at potential access points to the property.

Next month's meeting: August meeting is postponed. Next meeting: Sept. 16.

Motion to Adjourn:

Submitted:

Lynne Gomez
Clerk