

# Sherman Commission on Aging

Sept. 16, 2013

## Minutes

**Present:** Jeanette Perlman, Peter Cohen, Cheryl Hawkins, John Jenner, Lorna Barrett, Beth Trott, Lynne Gomez

**Minutes:** Minutes for June and July were approved as read.

**Report of Coordinator of Senior Center:** Suzette reported statistics from annual report. Stats included participation, donations, mileage, etc. See annual report. Discussed transportation donations. Budget was discussed. Suzette asked Commissioners to support the budget effort and rationale. Volunteers were discussed to offset budget costs. Suzette's budget for van driver has been reduced. John suggests creating a very clean explanation of budget.

Audio system was discussed. It is a portable system that can work at the Senior Center or at Town Hall. It is before Selectmen to decide. It costs \$1000.00 plus. The unit is ADA compliant and allows 4 individuals with hearing loss or hearing aids to hear DIRECTLY from the speaker's mouth. The speaker wears a lapel mike, the 4 individuals each have a pocket receiver and a headset.

### **Report of Director of Social Services:**

**Halloween Bash:** October 26, Saturday, 5 to 7. Commission on Aging could have a booth. Purchase novelties to give away. Part of Sherman Steps Up efforts to increase volunteerism in Sherman. Next meeting of SSUVC is Nov. 9.

**Update on Senior Housing:** Housing Commission meets tonight at 5:30 at Senior Center. There is a lease agreement that needs to be tweaked. No less than 50 percent of units will be affordable, not "low". However, it gives Housing what it needs to pursue funding. COA is encouraged to attend tonight. A 501c-3 is also being formed.

**Aging Advocate:** Lorna will write a piece on sex and the senior population. Beth will write an article to clarify health care reforms. The use of the term "senior" could be another article. Agist stereotypes is another. Jill mentioned her doctor telling her she could go about her "normal activities" following surgery. She said, "really? Would that include water skiing every morning?" Possible article. Other articles will be assigned at next meeting.

Next meeting: Oct. 21, Monday. Lynne Gomez

