

# Sherman Commission on Aging

Nov. 18, 2013

## Minutes

**Present:** Jean Perlman, John Jenner, Lorna Barrett, Peter Cohen. Beth Trott, director Social Services. Suzette Berger, Coordinator of the Sherman Senior Center.

Minutes of the October Meeting were approved as read.

**Center Report:** SPTO Thanksgiving Luncheon is pending. Encouraged everyone to attend. Center delivers meals to those who cannot attend.

Holiday Party is coming up in December. Seeking donations for raffle prizes.

Budget: Suzette wants to meet in December with a small group of the COA for budget development, including increasing Lynne's hourly salary and increasing from 5 hours. Lynne's salary is \$12.99 per hour, and Suzette would like to increase it to \$15.00 per hour. It would be a \$1,000 increase in the budget. Suzette would like to work on the rationale. John and Jeanette are willing to work on the budget with Suzette.

This week, Suzette got an increase in salary, which will skew the budget because it was not "budgeted." Discussion followed regarding supporting Suzette in her budget development.

The new van driver is on vacation for January. Suzette and Lynne will drive the car, but not the van. Discussion of appropriate substitutes followed.

Suzette discussed the value of Rebuild America and the work they have done in Sherman.

Suzette is actively scheduling February, March and April. She is programming a "lite" January when the van driver is away.

**Social Worker Director:** Beth discussed some conferences, including the Elder Justice Conference and the Annual Meeting of the Western Area Commission on Aging. She reported that Manny Colon will not be working at the center anymore. He is the Fordham intern who opted to take a full time job with optometry.

Beth discussed that her energy assistance clients have increased as have her medical health care issues.

Beth noted that Social Services has taken on the Sherman Holiday Gift Drive, which was run by Sherman's tax collector for years. Discussion followed.

***Housing Commission:*** Jeanette reported that the 8-24 has been accomplished and the lease resolution will be discussed by the BOS and is being prepared for a vote. The goal is that it would be agreed upon and then to the town for a meeting. How are you going to prevent it from disappearing into the dark hole of the law?" asked John Jenner. His concern was the lease resolution would go back to the town attorney and disappear.

Jeanette has agreed to report on the BOS for the Citizen News. Her goal is to present the highlights in an objective manner.

Sherman Steps UP, the group of volunteer committee leaders who have been meeting to encourage volunteerism in town, met again. Although smaller in number, the interest is still alive. The next meeting, set for Jan. 25, will be led by one of the committees. Further meetings will be led by various groups in attendance. Discussion followed.

Beth reported that a new group, called Sherman Cares, will be helping pay for fuel and food for people in need. Its board consists of private citizens, including Anita Brown, Ruth Byrnes, Joe Chiaramonte, John and Andrea O'Connor.

Jeanette reported on the Center for Compassionate Creativity and Innovation. She also gave an update on the committee overseeing Happy Acres.

Suzette returned from the union meeting. The union voted to accept Suzette's contract and now it goes to Selectmen.

Motion to adjourn: 10 am

Next Meeting: Jan. 27, 8:30 a.m.

Lynne Gomez  
Clerk