

Sherman Commission on Aging
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2015
Mallory Town Hall, 6:00 PM

FINAL

Present: J. McRoberts, S. McMahon, Dr. J. Garcia, E. Hayes, J. Wey, and A. Jellen

Public & Invited: First Selectman, C. Cope Municipal Agent for the Elderly B. Trott, and Senior Center Coordinator, S. Berger, Commission Clerk Christine Branson, and C. Faure

Call to Order: Ex-Officio, C. Cope Called the informational Meeting to Order at 6:02 p.m.

Senior Center Report:

Senior Center Coordinator, S. Berger welcomed the Commission and introduced Municipal Agent for the Elderly B. Trott. Ms. Berger reviewed the hours of operation at the center: S. Berger is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. L. Gomez is available 7.4 hours a week. Additionally there are two bus drivers on staff who share 10 hours combined. Last year there was an increased need for transportation and a budget request was granted by the BoS. The 2015-16 FY recently passed and the bus drivers' hours have been increased to 13 hours combined. This increase will allow additional hours where seniors can schedule trips to grocery stores, pharmacies, appointments, and other trips. There are one on one services for Doctor and hospital appointments through FISH and WHEELS, however it difficult for these organizations to accommodate seniors that have special needs such as wheel chairs or walkers. Ms. Berger additionally reported Probate Judge M. Langriebe will be available for walk in and scheduled appointments the second Friday of each month from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. This will allow seniors the ability to speak with the Probate Judge on a variety of legal concerns such as estate planning, real estate plans, wills and other issues.

General Discussion:

The Commission discussed taking turns writing small articles regarding future programming at the Senior Center to encourage readers to attend. An upcoming program this month is coming this Friday where Dr. Daniel Joint will discuss ways to have difficult conversations with not only seniors but all ages. This is an exciting presentation which should be very informative to all who attend. The Senior Center hopes the Commissioners will consider volunteering at the center to help coordinate programs such as the monthly birthday celebration lunch, card games, exercise and other programs. There will be a Volunteer Appreciation Tea June 4th from 2pm to 3pm with music by Don Lowe as well. Some of the Commissioners attended a State luncheon where there were many representatives from the region. There were many important topics presented and it was a gratifying event. Discussion followed regarding the need to update information on the Town website in regard to the senior calendar and hours of operation etc. First Selectman C. Cope suggested the Commission members take turns writing a weekly column titled "Did You Know..." and cover different topics important to seniors. This will hopefully keep not only seniors engaged but the families as well as caregivers. Topics discussed were: reverse mortgages, safety in the home, banking safety, low income services available, organizations that can help seniors if their physical abilities change, such as retrofitting a bathroom with rails and handles or building a ramp for easier access.

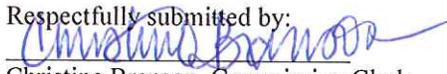
Election of Officers:

Ex Officio, C. Cope asked the Commissioners to think about the duties of the Officers and be prepared to vote at the June Meeting. Discussion followed regarding the expectations of the Commission, Ms. Berger asked the Commission to consider issues that are important to seniors, look for discussions and forums that may fit with our Town such as Elder Safety, protecting against fraud and scams, creating a safe environment in the home for aging relative. Write supporting articles in the Citizen News, calls to other Centers in the area to find out what programs they offer. First Selectman C. Cope suggested writing a weekly column titled "Did You Know..." and cover different topics important to seniors. The general consensus of the Commission was the schedule to hold monthly Meetings on the third Monday of the month at 6pm works best.

Adjourn

Ex-Officio, C. Cope Adjourned the Meeting at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by:


Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Approved as Final June 15, 2015