

Sherman Commission on Aging
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2017
Mallory Town Hall, 4:00 PM

FINAL

Present: J. Wey, S. McMahon, R. Hudson, A. Jellen, J. Garcia, and J. McRoberts

Absent: E. Hayes

Public & Invited: Social Services Director B. Trott, Senior Center Coordinator S. Berger and Commission Clerk, C. Branson

Call to Order: Chair J. Wey Called the Meeting to Order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

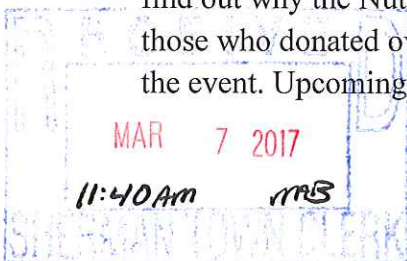
J. McRoberts Moved to Approve the Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of November 21, 2016 with Amendments.

Seconded by: A. Jellen

Vote: For : Unanimous

Senior Center Report:

Beth Trott provided handouts regarding a Senior Center in Lebanon Connecticut, which was built in 2010. Their Senior Housing is privately funded, and the Town of Lebanon paid for their Senior Center. The general population of Lebanon is approximately 7 to 8 thousand. Mrs. Trott stated the Senior Center as it is currently provides no confidentiality with clients. There is nowhere a client can meet privately when the staff is present and/ or there are events taking place. There is also not a common space available to keep files locked and secure. The restrooms don't seem to properly serve the public either. The only ADA compatible restroom is marked "Mens". Mrs. Berger feels the Senior Center's needs have outgrown the current space. Mrs. Trott stated that with the Senior population rapidly growing Sherman needs to start planning for the future. Mrs. Trott requested the Commission on Aging contact the Board of Selectmen to discuss forming a Building Committee to assess the current Senior Center challenges and research recommendations to better serve the future needs of the Seniors within the community. S. Berger shared concern regarding recent cuts to the State Budget for Senior Nutrition. Discussion followed regarding requesting the BoS replace the Nutrition line in the Senior Center FY 2017-18 Budget to off-set costs related to nutrition outside of Senior Dine and Meals on Wheels. The line was taken out of the Budget in the recent past because the State was providing funding, but has now been cut. Mrs. Berger and Mrs. Trott stated they would do some research to find out why the Nutrition line was cut from the Town Budget. Mrs. Berger shared her thanks for those who donated over the holidays, there were a little over \$900.00 received in gift value for the event. Upcoming programs include a De-cluttering seminar to be held January 20th and a



Computer Safety class set for January 24th at 11am. There will also be an International Luncheon set for January 30th and on February 2nd UCONN will host a Poison Control program to speak about medication safety. In February, on Thursday afternoons, the Tech program will continue bringing Sherman Middle-School students together with Seniors to work on computers and devices. The Commission discussed current "gifting" practices and asked what the Commission's scope of responsibility is in regard to Fundraising. Chair, J. Wey congratulated Mrs. Berger and Mr. Jellen on the success of the recent programs that have come to the Center, it seems the Community has been fully engaged with the variety of programs offered.

Proposed FY 2017-18 Budget Discussion:

Chair J. Wey stated she met with the First Selectman's office and the expenditures for the current Budget year are in good shape. There is still available funding to cover things like refreshments and sandwiches possibly for the Volunteer Tea coming up. The FY 2017-18 Proposed Budget is due to be submitted by February 15th and will be presented to the BoS on February 25th and March 5th. The Commission agreed to keep the proposed request flat.

R. Hudson Moved to keep the proposed FY 2017-18 Commission on Aging Budget flat at a total of \$2,000.00.

Seconded by: J. McRoberts

Vote: For: Unanimous

New Business:

Terms of Commissioners:

Chair, J. Wey spoke to the First Selectman's office regarding the length of terms and expirations. Administrative Assistant, R. Byrnes stated the Commissioners are appointed to serve three year terms. Since several of the Commissioners came on at relatively the same time there will be an imbalance should if Commissioners chose not to seek renewal of their terms. Some research will need to be done to see what the By-Laws say and it is possible a few of the Commissioners terms will need to be staggered. Mrs. Wey stated she hopes everyone will consider continuing, this group is working well together.

Transportation Commission:

Chair J. Wey reported she attended a luncheon at the Senior Center hosted by First Selectman Cope where several members of the State Department of Transportation were present to assess the needs of the community and the possibility of bringing public transportation to Sherman. Also present was Social Services Director B. Trott, Senior Coordinator S. Berger, Zoning Enforcement Officer, R. Cooper, and Planning & Zoning Administrative Clerk C. Branson.

Old Business:

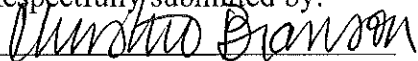
Senior Art Show:

Chair, J. Wey emailed M. Loeb and L. Oppenheimer from the Library and is hoping to meet with them later in the week. Mrs. Wey also relayed information from Commissioner E. Hayes following a discussion with J. Jenner who had involvement with an art show in the past and was willing to share some useful tips and a few names of local artists. The Commission agreed that the eligible age for artists would be 55 and older. It would be up to the individual if they wanted to have their items for sale and would negotiate the sale through the Library who would receive a brokers commission. Also discussed was the length of time for the exhibit, 6 weeks seemed to be the general consensus. Mrs. Wey asked if an additional Commissioner would accompany her when she meets with the Library. J. McRoberts agreed she would go with Mrs. Wey. The Commission discussed the need for two separate press releases. The first would be a call for local Senior Artists. The second would be to advertize the show. The Commission will need to compile artist's bios into a short program.

Adjournment:

Commissioner A. Jellen Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

January 18, 2017

***APPROVED AS FINAL AT THE FEB. 8, 2017 RMM**