

SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
December 8, 2008

Senior Center Administrator Theresa Strong called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. PRESENT: Larry Anderson, Loris Balkun, James Gere, Claire Hickey, Bernice Hurlbut, Bud Jackson, Jane Johnson, Al Kane, Catherine Kelley, Helen Zalewski. ABSENT: Chairman Mary Konopka,. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Claire Hickey, Cathi Jackson, Joyce Norman, Theresa Strong, First Selectman Liaison Fran Monnes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion seconded and passed to add setup of 2009 meeting dates to Good and Welfare.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made, seconded and approved to accept November 10 minutes. James Gere abstained.

SC/HS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Energy Assistance and Operation Fuel are keeping Cathi and Theresa extremely busy with so much confusion with political process and windows of minimum and maximum incomes; it's a 10-1 ratio of residents who will actually be eligible; and starting to do by appointment as walk-ins are using time from other duties. Will get newsletter out to publisher in January.

SC CLASSES AND PROGRAMS: Reports were mailed out; program totals were 1166 and transportation 782. 2009 trip flyers are available; however, prices have increased. About 80 senior and 50-60 Human Services holiday baskets will be delivered Dec. 23. Adopt a Child program will be done on Dec. 16. Glen Johnson donated pies for last Thursday's dinner and a Girl Scout Troup helped serve. Winter programs planning is underway for Meditation, Art History, Yoga, Tai Chi, Yoga, a Wii gaming system for Wednesday mornings. On Dec. 11 Genesis health care will sponsor an omelet breakfast and healthy holiday eating program before bingo.

TRANSPORTATION: Spare minibus was taken to Selig Ford last Thursday for an oil change; cost of \$37 and out of service for ½ day instead of a full week with service done at town garage. Senior bus is scheduled for this week. Bernice inquired on service provided to Covenant Village due to their charges for trips. More village residents are coming to the senior center for recreational programs and adds to diversification of programs. Transportation will be shortened on Dec. 23; there will be only one driver, other two will do basket deliveries. Town Hall Holiday schedules and closings for 2009 have been sent out to clients for appointment purposes.

Budget: On target. Theresa submitted 30-year capital plan last month and again included \$25,000 fund request for feasibility study. Still waiting for C&R approval.

Cathi working on project involving vehicle outsourcing. Theresa also talked to DOT on apportionment \$17,000 grant for operation of services. Will submit budget and aim for continuation of services.

Helen Zalewski inquired as to children's behavior during senior center programs. In the future if children are running around the situation should be brought to Administrator's attention to address. Bud Jackson moved to accept report, seconded Helen Zalewski, so moved.

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Cathi Jackson received 19 new calls on the following: homemaker, energy assistance, meals on wheels, income tax and transportation. Loris moved to accept report, seconded Helen Zalewski, so moved.

FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER: Bake sale proceeds were \$500, turned over \$708 for Nov. and \$134 for early Dec. sales. \$350 was deposited to PH bldg. fund, Bud Jackson moved to accept report, Helen Zalewski seconded, so moved. .

SELECTMAN'S LIAISON: Fran Monnes updated SSAB on town issues. Two Selectmen meetings were held in November with following results. Monthly meetings will continue to be the second Wed.; two purchases of McNeils property for community center for lease and rental, and Viola's land for additional parking to attract businesses were voted down. Discussed was open space plan and tax relief to owners of 4 acres or more to slow development in town; costing the town approx. \$170,000; this to be made up by other tax payers. Sisco transferring acreage to Cromwell to develop town road to transfer station and industrial park in the rear. Town sold acreage on North Road, which it had been maintaining, to developer for easier access to his property. Thanks to Theresa and advisory board for a job well done and for all they do with senior programs .

Theresa met with Craig Minor on several locations for a senior center – Coles Road fire house property; area of "Active adult community" proposed on upper Main St.; lower downtown area of older homes, four acres of undeveloped land opposite Hoffman Farm Waiting for report from town planner, which could be beneficial to accreditation. Larry inquired if Library expansion will actually take place, Fran noted it will depend on economy. Claire Hickey moved to accept report, seconded Jane Johnson, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: National Accreditation process moving along well and is on sixth standard; meeting is Dec. 15, standards should be developed by March. Due to dinner on Thursday the Bridge Group was scheduled to meet in lower level room; however, due to individuals' circumstances the Arch Room was opened for that group .

NEW BUSINESS: Charter revision request. There is nothing in the charter for a senior center, or a senior center commission. The Finance Director and National Accreditation subcommittee suggested that a letter be sent to the First Selectman, with a copy to the town clerk , requesting that when he opens the Charter Revision an item be put in the Charter to address the establishment of the town of Cromwell having a full time senior center with a full time director and a senior center "commission" instead of advisory board. Claire Hickey made motion that Theresa and Mary prepare a letter, Helen Zalewski seconded, so moved.

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CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

GOOD AND WELFARE: Theresa will mail out 2009 meeting dates schedule with January agenda. Meetings will continue to be held **THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH; HOWEVER IF IT IS A HOLIDAY, THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE THIRD MONDAY.**

Meeting adjourned 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Norman, Clerk

