Sherman Commission on Aging  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 15, 2017  
Mallory Town Hall, 6:00 PM  

Present: J. Wey, E. Hayes, J. McRoberts, A. Jellen, J. Garcia  

Absent: S. McMahon, R. Hudson  

Public & Invited: Senior Center Director S. Berger, First Selectman C. Cope, Commission Clerk L. Whitney  

Call to Order: Chair J. Wey Called the Meeting to Order at 6:03 PM  

Approval of Minutes:  

J. McRoberts Moved to Approve the Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of April 24, 2017 as written  

Seconded by: Ed Hayes  
Vote For: Unanimous  

Senior Center Report:  

S. Berger reported that the last week of April was volunteer week and the Senior Center hosted a volunteer tea. There were 5 volunteers honored with over 100 hours of volunteer service each. In 2015-16 the Senior Center had over 1200 volunteer hours served. In 2016-17 there were 39 volunteers serving 1888 hours, which saves the town $26,485.00. This does not include the FISH volunteer hours.  

The Senior Center has a new wireless printer and copier for seniors to utilize.  

S. Berger met with C. Cope on 5/5 to discuss the Senior Center budget. The Senior Center is over budget, largely due to the increased demand for driver hours. S. Berger presented the Commission with a graph displaying the increase in driver hours. This is due in part by more people needing rides and partly due to less snow days whereby services would ordinarily be cancelled. There has been a decrease in the number of Senior Center trips because the driver hours are over budget. Currently, 236 people use the Senior Center services. C. Cope came to this meeting to support the Senior Center’s budgetary need and will support the need for increased driver hours in the future budget.  

WHEELS is a senior driving service used in New Milford. In Sherman we utilize FISH. COA will support and advocate for the Senior Center budget.
In addition, the Senior Center van was purchased through a state grant, therefore the state actually owns the van. State guidelines dictate that the van can not be used for travel outside of CT. C. Cope offered to look into alternate insurance that may be able to expand the Senior trips to outside of the state.

S. Berger's schedule will change in July, the new schedule will be:
2 shopping days per week:
1 long day: Stop N Shop, Walmart, Home Goods, Home Depot
1 short day: Big Y, prescription filling at Walmart
alternate: Sherman IGA, library

This is an increase of 2 days per month.

On June 2 there will be Reach Out Training at the Senior Center. Volunteers are needed to offer friendly visits to homebound seniors. J. Wey questioned whether volunteers are liable. C. Cope reported that all town volunteers are covered by Town insurance. S. Berger would like to require background checks on volunteers for the Reach Out Program. The cost for each background check is approximately $25.00. C. Cope will look into town funding for this.

Old Business:

Ed Hayes contacted Senator McLachlan's office and spoke with an administrative assistant requesting a visit from the Senator to discuss the impact of the state budget on our community. The administrative assistant reported that the Senator would be happy to come discuss the impact of the budget with us but he does not have time until after the budget process is complete. E. Hayes posed the question of whether this might be an event that should be sponsored by the COA but open to the entire community. The Commission agreed. E. Hayes suggested making a list of our concerns and questions prior to the event. J. Wey reminded the Commission to arrange transportation to the event for seniors. This event will be scheduled according to the Senator's availability. E. Hayes will follow up.

Senior Art Show:

There was one response on the website from Silvia Herrera, art teacher at Canterbury. J. Wey read a list of 20 possible participants. J. McRoberts, E. Hayes, J. Wey and S. McMahon will contact 5 possible participants each. The deadline for artist commitment to the show is July 15, 2017. These will be reviewed at the July 17 meeting.
Each artist will be asked for a one or two line bio for their art work. Fliers have been put in the bank and the IGA. More are available.
New Business:

Flu Clinic: J.Wey found that some seniors were discouraged because only the trivalent vaccine was available and seniors were looking for the quadrivalent vaccine. Question will be raised to S.Berger next meeting.

C.Cope encouraged the COA to advocate for the Plow to Hearth dinners offered through New Milford Hospital nightly for $5.00. This program is run through funding that stands to be cut if attendance declines.

Adjournment:
E.Hayes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM

The next meeting will be June 19, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

[Signature]

Linda Whitney, Commission Clerk
May 15, 2017