

**Town of Sherman
Commission On Aging**

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 24, 2020 4:00 PM

Members Present: Chairman—Janet Wey, Lynda Lee Arnold, Juan Garcia, Ed Hayes, Rick Hudson, Sheila J. McMahon, Jeanne McRoberts, Carol Sperling, Art von Plachecki

Members Absent: none

Also present: Don Lowe—First Selectman; Beth Trott—Sherman Social Services; Barbara Ackerman; M. MacKinnon—clerk

Call to Order: Chairman, J. Wey called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the regular monthly meeting of 27 January 2020 by E Hayes.

Seconded by: R. Hudson.

Vote for: unanimous

Senior Center / Social Services Report:

Tabled for next meeting.

Old Business:

- Feasibility Committee — update and discussion.

J Wey provided an update on the committee's recent efforts. B Trott reminded everyone of the committee's origins—the Commission on Aging sought the First Selectman's approval to form a committee to explore the possible locations in town where issues of limited space within the current Senior Center and limited parking space could be resolved, as well as ADA compliant access, which is an increasing issue due to the limited mobility of some seniors using the center. The committee was to report back to the COA on progress.

Motion by A von Plachecki: The COA to advise the Board of Education through a letter that although the COA appreciates their work the COA is not ready to guarantee or support the Senior Center occupying the space identified.

Seconded by: R Hudson.

Additional discussion followed.

Motion amended by A von Plachecki: If no changes in the concept proposed by the School Board and the architect at the February 25th Board of Education meeting, the COA advise the School Board in writing, that although their offer is appreciated, the COA is not in a position at this time to commit to occupying the space identified.

Seconded by: E Hayes.

Vote for: Unanimous.

- Update on Directory of Sherman Resources

Action item: R Hudson and C Sperling will meet tomorrow to review needed changes with Alana at the Senior Center. J. McRoberts provided a copy of edits she had noted.

- Documentary "Coming of Age in an Aging America"--to be shown at JCC Tues, March 24th @ 11:30AM—refreshments.

Action items: Rick to assist with setup. Carol and possibly J McRoberts will assist with refreshments.

- AARP Grant on Community Conversations

- B Trott reported she hasn't been in touch with AARP yet.

New Business:

-Jeanne Mc Roberts and Janet Wey have been reappointed to a 3 yr. term on COA

- is COA willing to switch meeting times with the Housing Commission.

Motion by R Hudson to revise meeting start time to 4:00 PM year round.

Seconded by: S J McMahan.

Vote for: Unanimous.

Any new business that comes before COA

- A von Plachecki will attend the Housing Commission to express views as a private citizen, not as a COA commissioner.

Action items:

- COA invite the Housing Commission to provide an update at the March meeting.
- COA create a subcommittee to study changing demographics of future needs of Sherman Seniors.

Comments by Commissioners:

D Lowe clarified a few points. The Senior Center is large enough to house those who are using the Center now, which is a less ambulatory group. In terms of recreation, he stated Parks & Rec and the library have been asked to create activities for more active seniors, while the Feasibility Committee work continues. He added Charter Hall is available. His idea to move to the JCC is unworkable for Social Services and the Senior Center director.

Another possible property mentioned was the Giddings property.

Action item: B Trott will create a list of properties viewed to date and brief impressions of them. Criteria for acceptable properties are listed in appended to these minutes.

J Wey advised the next Feasibility Committee meeting is Friday, March 13th, 1:00 PM at Mallory Town Hall.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment:

R Hudson **moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 PM**

S J McMahan **seconded the motion.**

Meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Michele MacKinnon
26th February 2020

Next meeting: Monday March 16th—4:00 PM

APPENDIX

Criteria for possible Senior Center / Social Services space

1. Confidential meeting spaces
2. ADA compliant
3. Easy accessibility
4. Two handicap-accessible bathrooms
5. Staff bathroom
6. Kitchen with two sinks
7. Supply room/storage space
8. Handicap parking spots & drop off point
9. Near center of town
10. Exercise room
11. Swing spaces