

**Town of Sherman
Commission On Aging**

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 16, 2020, 4:00 PM

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

Members Absent: Juan Garcia, Beth Trott—Sherman Social Services

Also present: Don Lowe—First Selectman; Suzette Berger - Sherman Senior Center, Evangeline Zarros, M. MacKinnon—clerk

Call to Order: Chairman, J. Wey called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the regular monthly meeting of 24 February 2020 by E.Hayes

Seconded by: R. Hudson

Vote for: unanimous

Announcements

J Wey expressed appreciation and shared updates regarding :

- R Hudson and C Sperling for work on the Directory of Sherman Resources which has proved useful during the pandemic.
- all who made face masks for the Senior Center.
- all who have reached out to seniors and offered rides to appointments. R Hudson offered to provide transportation as well.
- FISH is providing limited transportation.
- Local government representatives were advised of Seniors' concerns about an Eversource rate increase, which was suspended by the Public Utility Regulatory Authority.
- Spectrum has provided refunds for the August outage caused by storm damage.

Senior Center / Social Services Report: S Berger announced Lynne Gomez, LMSW will be the new Director of Social Services for the Town of Sherman starting November 30th. B Trott will be training her that week.

To date during the pandemic the Senior Center:

- delivered 2301 lunches and 581 Goodwill items, and Personal Protective Equipment
- will deliver 80 Thanksgiving treats from the Scouts next week
- American Pie will offer Thanksgiving meals on the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving Day.
- The Senior Center has closed again due to a spike of COVID cases in town. Virtual activities are offered but are not as well attended.
- On Monday, December 14th from 10 AM until noon there will be an outdoor drive-through "12 days of Christmas" event. Each senior center window will have a different 12 day's theme.
- Due to an uptick in Covid cases grocery shopping for seniors has not resumed.

COVID Notes:

- six cases in last week; 13 cases since October 24; no cases linked to any particular event.
- Testing available at Doc's, the walk-in clinic, with locations in Danbury and Bethel. CVS in Danbury offers contactless drive-through testing after making an appointment online.
- 2 test types: Fast — results in 15 minutes but maybe a bit less reliable; standard tests — results after 3 to 4 day wait

Old Business:

1. Feasibility Committee update - no committee meetings since last COA Meeting. D Lowe had nothing further to report. A von Plachecki repeated a suggestion to clarify the Senior Center's needs before searching for facility locations. J Wey stated a list of criteria was created when committee work began, with key requirements being ADA compliance and more parking.

New Business:

1. **Calendar** - 2021 meeting dates to be submitted to the Town will be:

Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug.— no meeting, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec.— no meeting. Meetings at Mallory Town Hall, pending COVID conditions.

2. Discussion on how we can best contribute during the Pandemic

- A von Plachecki suggested an online photo show and theme of "What's Going on in Your Backyard" as a way to encourage people to get outside in winter. S Berger suggested offering a prize and asked if D Lowe could arrange for posting on the town website. Art will work with Suzette to develop ideas. J Wey will add to the January meeting agenda.
- S Berger suggested consideration of an automated weekly telephone message, as other town's senior centers have done, with an inspirational or informational theme to reach those who lack technology access or abilities.
- discussion raised general consensus that the COA can take a leadership role providing accurate information when we're closer to vaccinations being distributed.
- L Arnold shared news that she spoke at a Newtown Senior Center drive-up lunch and learn session in which lunches were given to all attendees and information was shared via a radio broadcast on channel 88.9. A transmitter is needed for the audio portion of such an event. J Wey will add to the January meeting agenda.

3. Any new business that comes before COA

S Berger informed everyone that Ridgefield, Bethel, and New Milford VNA services have merged but are maintaining their prior service level despite the merger.

Comments by Commissioners: none

Public Comment: none

Adjournment:

A von Plachecki **moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 PM**

J McRoberts **seconded the motion.**

Meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Michele MacKinnon
17th day of November 2020

Next meeting: Monday, January 25th, 2021—4:00 PM