



Town of Sherman Commission on Aging

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 24, 2022

Members Present: Lynda Lee Arnold (Chairman), Janet Wey (Vice Chairman). Commissioners: Rick Hudson, Sheila McMahon, Jeanne McRoberts, Art Von Plachecki, Carol Sperling

Members Absent: J. Garcia, E. Hayes

Also Present: Suzette Berger – Senior Center Coordinator, Don Lowe – First Selectman

Clerks: D. Lowe acting clerk

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman L. Arnold.

Director's Report:

S. Berger from the Senior Center Director reported that all is going well, and programs and meals are proceeding. She also reported that a new intern, Ryan Khoury, will be starting soon at the Senior Center.

Ongoing Business:

R. Hudson offered specific details based on Senior Center Workshop meetings as to the location for the proposed new Senior Center, which is slated to be built at the Town Meadows. A discussion followed on the advantages of this location and how it offers a generous view of the pond.

A. Von Plachecki asked in a general sense as to what stage the workshop group thinks the plan is in. R. Hudson reported that the workshop is in the process of soliciting "Letters of Interest" from building firms. A. Von Plachecki then suggested a possible Town gathering in the late spring up at the proposed location that features a mark-up on the ground as to where the building will go, some presentational information, and refreshments. This gathering would be to disseminate information and to also gather goodwill for the project. A. Von Plachecki idea was readily accepted and agreed with by all commission members.

More discussion followed on methods for getting the public informed. All commissioners spoke of the importance of getting the public as informed as possible.

A. Von Plachecki asked if zoning would be an issue for the project. The general consensus was that it wouldn't be, but it was agreed that more investigation was needed. R. Hudson volunteered to go to Town Hall and secure information as to whether there were any deeded restrictions on the land.

The group moved into the topic of a "Wish List" for the proposed Senior Center and more items were added. J. Wey led this discussion and among them were: lighting and security cameras; an adequate number of electrical outlets; a Knox box; an alcove with room enough for wheelchair bound seniors to move freely instead of merely a coat room; and further security measures as we recognize that Volunteer Field can be a nighttime gathering place, especially for teens.

J. Wey also questioned whether our volunteer fire department was made aware of the desire to have solar panels on the building. She commented that some fire departments do not like dealing with panels on the roof of a building. It was agreed that our Sherman Volunteer Fire Department would be made aware of the intention to place solar panels on the building.

New Business:

After a brief discussion on the topic of the COA's budget, a motion by A. Von Plachecki was made to increase the COA budget request from \$2,000 to \$3,000. The reasoning was because there may potentially be more need for funds to support a mail campaign to inform the public of the new Senior Center. J. McRoberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business (Continued):

L. Arnold will reach out again to Dr. Melendez at the Sherman School about seniors' involvement with the school. A. Von Plachecki suggested a Spring Photography event. A discussion followed and it was mutually agreed by all commissioners that this event was a good idea. C. Sperlberg suggested that the COA moves its meetings back to Mallory Town Hall. This was agreed on by all commission members.

Motion made by: S. McMahon to move to Mallory Town Hall

Seconded by: J. McRoberts

Vote For: Unanimous

Adjournment:

S. McMahon moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

J. McRoberts seconded the motion.

Vote for: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Christine D. Aruza
Next meeting: Monday, February, 28, 2022, 4:00PM at Mallory Town Hall