



Town of Sherman Commission on Aging

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 28, 2022

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

Members Absent: Ed Hayes

Also Present: Suzette Berger – Senior Center Coordinator, Lynne Gomez – Senior Services Director, Don Lowe – First Selectman

Clerk: Christine Aruza

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by Chairman L. Arnold.

Motion made by: J. Wey moved to approve the minutes

Seconded by: S. McMahon

Vote For: Unanimous

Senior Center Report:

S. Berger advised the Senior Center is still continuing the food delivery program that started during the pandemic. A decision needs to be made on how long to extend the program. If/when the program is terminated a two-month advanced notice will be provided to participants.

The Senior Center is considering bringing back congregated lunches in May. The decision needs to be made to either continue with the current provider or switch to the New Milford culinary school. There are additional program costs associated with switching providers. Presently, the cost is \$4 for seniors regardless of provider. The Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging (WCAAA) adds another \$1 per meal plus we have to add supplies upon opting for the culinary school. Before the pandemic the center served 10-15 meals one time per week. Funds for this program would come from the senior nutrition budget. Conducting this program could potentially require an additional \$2500 per annum. The current budget runs until July.

Lastly, Webster Bank will come in tomorrow for a lunch and learn on senior financial scams.

Social Services Report:

At present, 50 households are served by the energy assistance program. In addition, L. Gomez is working with 'geriatric orphans' in town that could use assistance. There is a desire to get the Reach Out program back on track in which volunteers get matched with an isolated senior that could benefit from a visit 1-2 times per week. There should be a notice in the paper in a month or two regarding this program.

Ongoing Business:

Working Group Update:

It is still very early in the process. The Town of Sherman sent out an 'ask for interest' to potential firms. This is **not** a request for proposal (RFP). Included in the ask was the town's proposed wish list of what the building would entail. Fourteen firms have expressed initial interest. Over the course of the week to 10 days the town has received basic marketing information from three architectural firms. Tomorrow is the deadline for submissions of interest.

Senior Center Wish List:

As regards the wish list there have been no further additions.

Spring Photo Project Update:

A. Von Plachecki created a poster for the Spring Photo Project which he shared with the commission. The poster will go in the Senior Center. In order to get the word out more broadly the commission will put a notice in local newspapers (e.g., *Town Tribune*, *Sherman Sentinel*). J. Wey will email fine art photographer Linda Hubbard to also help spread the word.

New Business:

Commission on Aging Budget & Town Meeting:

R. Hudson attended the town meeting on behalf of the commission. There he made the official request for an additional \$3000 allocation to the budget. This additional funding would support the dissemination of accurate information to the public (via digital, print media) regarding the building project.

Additional Business:

L. Arnold connected with Jeff Melendez, superintendent and principal of the Sherman school. He is interested in coming to the March meeting and will bring the assistant principal. They have an action plan they will present on how to institute programs between the commission and high school students.

Announcements:

S. Berger requested volunteers for Wednesday at noon to assist with the Matthew's Heart for Hope project. They need additional helpers to sew the donation pillows.

Adjournment:

J. McRoberts moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

R. Hudson seconded the motion.

Vote for: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Christine D. Aruza
Next meeting: Monday, March, 21, 2022, 4:00PM at Mallory Town Hall