



Town of Sherman Commission on Aging

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 18, 2022

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

Members Absent: Suzette Berger (Senior Center), Lynne Gomez (Social Services)

Also Present: Lisa Rey – Social Services, Don Lowe – First Selectman

Clerk: Christine Aruza

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

Motion made by: A. Von Plachecki moved to approve the minutes

Seconded by: E. Hayes

Vote For: Unanimous

Senior Center Report:

The Sherman Senior Center is continuing to transition from the pandemic programs. IGA home deliveries will stop on April 28th. May 4th will see the first congregate luncheon since March of 2020. CW Resources (now called CW Solutions) has begun to deliver all the needed supplies to restock the kitchen. Lunch is a suggested donation of \$3.

Dan and Natalie Hertz are restarting the bridge club on April 21st, 1-3pm. They are looking for interested players. Bridge will continue every Thursday 1-3pm.

Ryan Khoury has been a terrific intern from Western CT State University. His last two projects are a discussion on the environment April 19th at 12PM and a final Corn Hole Tournament on Friday, April 29th.

Ryan's success with the Tech Help program has encouraged S. Berger to hire someone once a month to assist with the tech needs of the center's clients. New Fairfield's Senior Center has been doing this for quite some time. While Sherman seniors are welcome to attend New Fairfield's program, S. Berger would like to also make it available in Sherman. S. Berger may be able to find volunteers once the students are out of school but would like to have some consistency. S. McMahon can speak to the talents of the new instructor she recommended. He will be at the Senior Center the first Friday of every month starting May 6th.

In cooperation with the Commission on Aging (COA) Spring photo show S. Berger has a program on May 10th at 12PM titled, "How to use your iPhone to take good photos." Although the instructor is going to demonstrate with an iPhone some of the instruction will be about general photography. S. Berger hopes this class will encourage participation in the COA photo show.

Social Services Report:

Social Services gave out Spring baskets to 40 families (25 of which are seniors). Per L. Rey they continued to run meals 3x week for 12 seniors. There were no charitable donations this month.

Ongoing Business:

Working Group Update:

D. Lowe advised that they are moving along nicely. In accordance with the bidding ordinance and with advice from the attorney the sub-committee is developing a request for proposal (RFP) for an architect. This should be ready for the working group to review at the May 4th meeting. Once the RFP is approved it will be circulated to architects from building/design firms to officially solicit proposals.

A. Von Plachecki inquired as to the size of the proposed building. D. Lowe shared the estimate is 3,500 to 4,000 sq feet with the likelihood of it being 4,000 to 4,500 sq feet. D. Lowe advised they are looking at green alternatives to supplement standard electric/heating/cooling systems (e.g., geothermal). The working group is additionally looking at ventilation systems or air filtration systems such as an infrared system which can aid with automatic sanitizing.

Senior Center Wish List:

D. Lowe will ask Ray Kelly if he can attend the next Commission on Aging meeting to hear from the commission members directly about the submitted wish list.

Spring Photo Project Update:

A. Von Plachecki advised they have some additional photos that were submitted. The project has also been promoted in the New Fairfield/Sherman Facebook page. A. Von Plachecki advised he is pleased S. Berger will conduct a tech class on how to take photos with an iPhone on May 10th. He advised the core idea was to encourage folks to get out and about following the peak of the pandemic. The photo display board will be set up by April 29th at the Senior Center to give seniors a visual idea of what to submit. He will appoint a committee to assist with the judging process.

Programs for Seniors and Students from the Sherman School

L. Arnold raised the issue that the Assistant Principal (Brian Kalkreuth) has submitted his resignation. With the departure of the Superintendent/Principal (Jeff Melendez) this additional administration departure will delay the process of formulating programs with the school. D. Lowe will interview new candidates and will pose the question about how to facilitate these types of programs in the future and how to approach with anticipated pandemic spikes. The program discussion will be tabled until the new administration comes on board.

New Business:

No new additional business at this time.

Announcements:

L. Arnold advised the Elder Law Committee for the CT Bar Association is doing a call to action. There is legislation coming up to change the community spousal protected amount. If you are married and applying for Medicaid the minimum the community spouse can keep is one half of everything but up to a minimum of \$27,480. The committee is working to amend the minimum and raise it to \$50,000. L. Arnold asked individual members that are in favor with the call to action to contact their legislators. This is in reference to Senate Bill 195. L. Arnold will speak next month at the Senior Center on trusts and is open to conducting a future session on Medicaid.

Comments from Commissioners:

J. Wey inquired if the COVID info on the town website will be updated with the latest cases as they are rising in general with the new variant. D. Lowe advised they have had 1 case in the last two weeks. He will update it this week to address the concern and maintain community awareness.

A. Von Plachecki inquired if the seniors want to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. D. Lowe advised they are welcome and should contact him if they want to participate. L. Rey advised that they have a car that they decorate and drive seniors in the parade.

Adjournment:

R. Hudson moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

J. McRoberts seconded the motion.

Vote for: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Christine D. Aruza
Next meeting: Monday, May 16, 2022, 4:00PM at Mallory Town Hall