**COMMISSION ON AGING**

**MEETING**

**SENIOR CENTER**

**OCTOBER 2, 2023**

**The meeting began at** 9:09 am.

**Present:** Bruce Lorentzen; Richard Wolf; Fran Goldstein (via speaker phone); Alison McElhone; Terry Castellano; Rose Cruz; Allison Lisbon; Lovie Hurd

**Minutes for September:** approved unanimously.

**Dial-a-Ride:** Lovie reported that Public Works maintains the vehicles; there is a leak in the small van; a light needed to be installed; the vehicles receive regular tune ups; the AC unit in the larger van needs to be checked; “strange sounds” coming from one vehicle; this will be addressed.

The universal handle has been installed.

Dial-a-Ride has been getting new clients for a total of seven since July. Some may have ridden in the distant past, but are new to Lovie. Dial-a-Ride averages six clients per day.

**Social Services:** Presently, Allison is working on assisting clients with applying for the various energy assistance programs. The Warm Up Fund is a reimbursement program. Allison is working diligently to ensure that all eligible clients complete the applications (with assistance) and submit them on time.

Social and Human Services is the actual title of Allison’s office. There was a discussion of social services for youth. It would be beneficial if Weston had a dedicated senior services person to address various issues Allison said. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed reviewing mental health programs.

**Senior Services:** Rose Cruz reported that Rick Darling, finance director, could not make the COA meeting. The software program will soon be up and running. The program is My Senior Center and can be customized.

Rose made the seniors aware that free COVID test kits are available through the federal government.

There was an overall discussion on the recent donation and the ARPA funds and what they would, most likely, be targeted for: three laptops, four iPads, a “computer station,” a tech ed instructor, exercise equipment, a barre, a Parkinson’s “boxing” course, and art area enhancements.

There was a discussion regarding insuring that the Town realizes a financial commitment on its part must be made.

Rose would like to increase and diversify the population that attends.

There was a lengthy discussion on pickleball and requesting a “fee to play.” The consensus of COA was that there should be a fee.

**Friends:** The committee is up to 11 members. The by-laws were changed. The donation request letter has been finalized and is at the printers.

**COA openings:** David Goodman has been proposed by the Selectmen. Vote by them to be taken. Discussion followed.

**Adjournment:** 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Castellano