Commission on Aging

Town of Weston, Connecticut

Minutes: Monday, October 5, 2020 at 930AM

Present: Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Richard Wolf, Francine Goldstein, Alison McElhone, Terry Castellano, Don Gumaer; SWCAA liaison and Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Social Services Director Allison Lisbon;

Note: This meeting was held via Google Meet Video Call due to Coronavirus pandemic

The meeting convened at 9:35AM.

The minutes of the last meeting (September 2020) were approved.

Alison and Allison gave a brief update about the Weston Public Schools. So far, the school opening has gone smoothly. All schools have been in hybrid mode. Local traffic has not been problematic. Since reopening, there was one case of COVID at WHS, and 1 case at HES. Schools were in distance learning mode for a few days for contact tracing and cleaning. There will be a Board of Ed meeting this week to discuss changes to current hybrid learning mode.

Regarding the Senior Center Reopening, Wendy reports they have signage and hand sanitizer. Waiting on hand rails for ramp to be installed. Wendy is worried that people who come to the senior center may not follow the rules. Richard states to inform attendees that if COVID/social distancing rules are not followed, they will be forced to close the center again. Helen asked how the center will reopen – if there were any perspectives we might learn from from other Senior Centers. Wendy reported that all Senior Centers in Fairfield, other than Easton and Monroe, are still holding only virtual activities.

Richard gave the facilities update. Handrails have not yet been fabricated for the entryway. Richard asked if temporary handrails can be used, as it will take 4-6 weeks for the permanent handrails to be made. We should be able to open up with temporary handrails. Automatic door openers and exterior lighting will be completed this week. Pollinator pathway plants will eventually be planted.

Regarding the upgrades to the handicap bathroom – it is not a town priority to install ceramic tile on floor and walls. Richard did meet with plumber to discuss a wheelchair accessible sink, touchless faucet, high water closet with touchless control. Plumber did install new water closet and touchless controls, but not new sink. Everyone agreed that these bathroom updates are imperative. We discussed how any correspondence about this should be with the town manager and all three selectmen. Helen asked about the other two bathrooms. Do they need to be ADA compliant? Richard didn’t think our size facility needed more than 1 ADA compliant bathroom. Allison suggested we ask the building coordinator.

Allison gave the Social Services update. Wendy and Allison worked on a newsletter insert with important contacts for emergency preparedness. It includes Everbridge, Social Services, Department of Health, community resources, etc. Social Services Dept is helping with fuel applications now.. Rose is setting up Choices program. They continue to see higher levels of anxiety across the board this year. They are still not back in office.

Wendy gave the Senior Center update. She reports they will be mailing out the Senior Center newsletter to “capture” people not on the internet.Weekly lunches are still going on. They no longer have an underwriter but Senior Center will cover October lunches, which remain at Norfield due to more outside space. Work on the Senior Center patio will start next week. In the front they will mulch. Planting will happen in spring.

Karla is looking to put additional classes on zoom.

Richard asked if Wendy can send everyone an outline regarding plans for Senior Center reopening. Wendy agreed. Richard also said we should put together a list of items needed. A walk- thru will be set up to decide.

The zoom meeting adjourned at 1013AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison McElhone