Commission on Aging

Town of Weston, Connecticut

Minutes: Monday, April 5, 2021 at 930AM

Present: Commission members Bruce Lorentzen, Richard Wolf, Francine Goldstein, Alison McElhone, Terry Castellano, Don Gumaer, Mary Francois ; SWCAA liaison and Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Weston Social Services Director Allison Lisbon

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

The meeting convened at 9:34 AM.

The minutes of the last meeting (March 2021) were approved.

Wendy gave the COVID vaccine update. Second dose clinic (and single dose Johnson and Johnson) will be later this month. The center probably won’t host anymore vaccine clinics. EMS together with the Health Department traveled to give the J and J vaccine to homebound elderly in Weston.

Wendy discussed the Senior Center reopening plans. All of the Fairfield senior centers have been meeting monthly via zoom. All are planning a reopening in June. Wendy anticipates hosting 1-2 classes at a time, and continuing to offer zoom programs. There will likely be a waiver and a vaccination requirement. Bruce said the idea of vaccination passport is going through the courts now. Wendy said Roy has been asking all persons he drives if they’ve been vaccinated. So far everyone is.

Richard gave the facilities update. There is 20,000 in the capital budget for the Senior Center. Wendy is preparing a list of cosmetic items if funding is, indeed, approved by the Board of Finance. Specifically, she is looking into new carpet and tiling in certain areas. Bruce asked Richard if there has been any information on the Economic Vitality Committee after Lance Scott resigned? Mary did not think the Committee had gone defunct.

Regarding the budget process, Allison reported the Board of Finance had asked the schools and town if there was anything that could be cut from the budget. Wendy and Allison were also asked (as were all Town Departments) by the Selectman to speak about what their departments were specifically doing. This was apparently after concerns were raised on social media about no one being at Town Hall.

Bruce commented that in a recent review by the Town, this commission was functioning well, with the exception of providing meeting minutes in a timely fashion. He asked if I would submit the meeting minutes to him within several days of each meeting.

Allison gave the Social Services update. The Department has been helping seniors with applications for the Weston Warm Up Fund. Person’s can apply for reimbursement of fuel cost. Applications are due May 1. This year Allison anticipates less money will be requested from the Warm Up Fund as the state program was helping. Primarily people that did not qualify for the state program will apply for Warm up assistance. This year, seniors can still apply for the tax abatement and deferment programs, which have not changed. These applications are due May 15. Richard asked if people currently on the tax programs notified about application deadlines. They are. Allison said the Social Services Department also sends reminders to all eligible seniors, and it is announced in the Senior Center newsletter. The Social Services Department continue to help with the food pantry and food deliveries. Don asked about prepared meals, now that Peters Market is closed. Allison said the prepared meals slowed during COVID pandemic. The Jewish Center in Fairfield delivers prepared meals monthly.

Wendy gave the Senior Center update. Everyone on the Commission, with the exception of Mary, are getting the weekly bulletin, which highlights the Center happenings. In addition to Senior Center plans discussed earlier, the center does plan weekly curbside lunches again, for 10-12 weeks.

As for Dial-a-ride, Roy has been getting busier and wants to be able to drive 2 people at a time to cut down on travel. He continues to deliver meals one day per week.

There was no Friends of the Weston Senior Center update, as Diana was not present.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22AM

Respectfully submitted,

Alison McElhone