Commission on Aging Meeting

September 19, 2022

9:30 am

Members attending: Bruce Lorentzen; Richard Wolf; Fran Goldstein; Mary Francois, Terry Castellano, Don Gumaer, also present: Weston Senior Center Director Wendy Petty; Weston Social Services Director Allison Lisbon

June minutes unanimously approved.

Facilities update: Wendy reported that MP construction has the permits and are expected to start within the next few weeks. Wendy has suggested demolition be when the schools are closed on 10/5. Jonathon wants to meet before construction begins to go over details. Richard is going to be away for two weeks starting Sunday so will not be able to oversee them. Jonathon will have to step in to supervise and ensure the construction team knows the Center is an occupied building, they can’t roam around, there should be minimal disturbance, etc. These things will need to be covered in the pre-construction meeting. Richard will return on 10/10.

Dial-A-Ride: Wendy reported they have a fantastic back-up driver, Lavinia (Lovey). She is a school bus driver so is only available from 830-2pm which is an issue for afternoon appts. They’ve changed afternoon appts to morning or have had volunteers drive the afternoon appts home. Roy is still on medical leave and should be hearing in the coming week whether he can return to work or not. Bruce asked if Jonathon is looking into another driver? Wendy replied there is another back-up driver but he is also a school bus driver so is unable to do later afternoon appts. The Senior Center will probably have to cancel some planned outings. It would be great to have a back-up driver who can work the whole day but it is very hard to find someone available for this. Richard asked if we can hire a driver as needed for the Senior Center trips. Bruce asked if she has looked into a limo company. Wendy said she will look into it but it could be costly. Richard suggested that Wendy find a limo company with drivers willing to do per diem work ad then plan out dates, get prices and discuss with the Town. It’s the Town’s responsibility to pay for the drivers. Not Friends of the Weston Senior Center.

Wendy gave the update regarding the Weston Hebrew School.

The bathroom renovation can’t start until October. There are three bathrooms. Work will have to be done in stages. Bruce will send an email to the Selectmen to let them know.

Dial-a-Ride: Roy is on medical leave. The back-up driver will be unavailable soon and they are looking for another back-up driver. Because of the nature of Roy’s medical problem, the Commission feels that he should no longer be driving for the Senior Center. Bruce will send an email to the Selectmen. Wendy has noted a decline in ride requests.

Social Services: Allison reported the social worker job description has been approved and written. Once approved by the union the job will be posted. Regarding ARPA funds, there is a tentative contract with Waveny Visiting Nurse to do a check in when there is an issue with elderly at home. ARPA funds will pay for the first visit then the agency will contact MD and bill insurance. There are ongoing discussions for the mental health component. Now Weston is looking, together with Westport, to partner with mental health group Positive Directions. ARPA funds would cover the first few visits then would be covered by insurance.

Senior Center: Wendy has no new updates. All programs are running in-house except for 2-3 popular online classes. They still have not yet reached pre-COVID numbers, however. The free lunch program will be ending. Weekly lunches will continue at a low cost for seniors. Bruce will be writing an email to the Town proposing a new name for the Senior Center – The Weston Adult Activity Center.

Friends: Wendy reported lower seller numbers so far for the Weston Flea.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison McElhone