

Commission on Aging Brookfield, CT Regular Monthly Meeting May 7, 2014

Betsy called the meeting to order at 12:03

Present - Jeanette Holliday, Betsy McIlvaine, Kevin McCaffrey, Sue Balla, Ellen Melville, Emily McPadden Curt Symes, COA Chairman in Newtown Carol Howe

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Jeanette reported usage of the Food Pantry in April showed a ten percent increase over last year at the same time. Currently 140 families are eligible while 64 actually visited. She attended the Statewide Annual Conference and will share resources with us as needed. Easter baskets were given to thirty-four youngsters. Applications for the Salvation Army camp are being accepted; discounts for Brookfield's Park and Recreation activities are available for those who qualify.

SENIOR CENTER

With the help of two part-time employees, Michelle and Lauren, the Senior Center is able to offer more evening and weekend activities as listed on the website and in the Newsletter. This enables those who are busy during the days an opportunity to benefit from what is offered. The hours are more flexible and new activities are being tried. Ellen distributed some Files of Life to us and suggested we pass them around to seniors we come in contact with. A suggestion was made we might ask our FISH drivers to give them to the seniors using the service.

FISH

It is imperative that when two drivers are involved in providing a ride to a client, who has a lengthy appointment, that specifics be shared as to the name of the doctor, location of the office and the like. Occasionally a person will phone the FISH line asking for a ride to the hairdressers. The person scheduling will do her best to help by giving suggestions as to who they might phone. Betsy will cover June calls and Carol will be scheduling in July.

COA RESOURCE GUIDE

Mr. Symes provided us with invaluable suggestions regarding the Senior Resource Guide we will be working on. The cover must be bright. Brookfield's First Selectman should have a statement at the beginning. We need to consider the scope of the guide, whether we want advertising and whether it will be electronic or hard copy. Mr. Symes suggested we start small to keep the cost down, consider grants (Curt will send us the names of local grant writers) and release the guide around town events. Making the guide user friendly is a must ex. include bold print. It is estimated this project might take between twelve to eighteen months and needs to be periodically updated and well publicized. The Newtown COA used a local publisher and printed seven hundred copies.

BROOKFIELD COA

There appears to be no regulations for designing senior apartments. It was suggested that we attend as many public hearings as possible and propose regulations to the Zoning Board. Kevin volunteered to work on specifications. Susan reported one goal of the State COA is to get older people back in the work force and encourage employers to retain the older workers they have hired. It is hoped that area Commission on Aging members become more aware of what the state is doing and plan to work together to share resources.

ADJOURNMENT 1:15PM

Meeting notes submitted by Carol Howe