

Commission on Aging Brookfield, CT
Regular monthly meeting February 3, 2016
Betsy called the meeting to order at 12:00

Present – Jeanette, Betsy, Carol, Emily, Kevin, Susan B., Connie, Susan S., Ellen, Marilyn

SENIOR CENTER

Beginning February 5, Tax-Aide counselors will assist people with their income tax preparation. Sign up is required and appointments are filling fast. New trips are advertised in the Newsletter. There has been a good response to hiking and snowshoeing, which tend to attract younger seniors. Ellen has presented the Center's budget to Mr. Dunn. It is hoped that Amy will be employed full time.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Housing rehab. Loans have a waiting list, as funds are no longer available. There has been a lower demand for energy assistance this year because of warmer weather. Operation Fuel is still available if needed. The Easter basket program is gearing up for March. This year gift cards will be added to the baskets. Extra shelving has been added in the food pantry that continues to see a steady use by residents. It is hoped a new refrigerator can be added in the future. To that end, Amy, with the help from Boy Scouts, collected 8,000 pounds of donated items for at \$700.00 return from Savers. A SNAP representative comes to the Center monthly to answer questions about food stamps. Susan Balla apprised us of mandated training for financial agents who are now required to report suspected financial abuse. This comes from the Connecticut Legislative Commission on Aging.

BROOKS QUARRY

Connie reported that all units are rented and solar panels are up and running. New laundry machines are being installed this month. Residents will be trained on how to use the machines with cards rather than coins. New folding chairs have been ordered. The kitchen has been updated so more cooking can be done on site, thus keeping costs down. Residents are serving on a number of committees.

FISH

Betsy gave to Ellen a donation from a grateful client. The contribution will be added to the Friends of the Senior Center account. December and January saw an average of fifteen rides given to medical appointments. The program continues to be successful. New drivers are always welcome.

RESOURCE GUIDE

Betsy distributed draft copies of the pages. Commissioners each took a page to check for correct phone number and web sites before the March meeting. She will share the

introductory statement with Mr. Dunn. It is hoped we might approach the Lions Club to help with the printing.

SEMINAR SERIES

The seminar on How to Safely Remain in Your Home is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 from 10:00-12:00 AM. Two speakers will present the program discussing the psychological benefits of remaining at home along with the handicapped accessible adjustments that are needed for safety. Marketing to a specific audience is important for advertising the seminar.

NEW BUSINESS

Susan Balla will send letters to the chairman of area Commissions on Aging suggesting that Brookfield host the first round table discussion. Details will follow depending on the interest of other commissions. Connie will check the Brooks Quarry calendar to see if it is possible to hold our next meeting at the facility. Betsy will advise us of the change in location. One of our future goals is to become more visible in the community giving seniors a chance to get to know us. A slate of officers will be presented at our March meeting. We are in need of two alternates.

Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, March 2 at 12 noon.

Meeting notes submitted by Carol Howe