COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

Attending: S. Katz, Presiding; C. Brennan; Francis Burgweger; C. Burns; James Dougherty.
Staff: Lori Contadino; L. Helmrich; C. Krois.
Guests: N. Edwards, DSS; L. Elliott, Town Assessor; N. Toy (and Columbia University Consulting Workshop Team)

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting were distributed and approved unanimously.

Chairman’s Report: S. Katz reported that the fundraising target for the Health Fair Expo has been exceeded. The target was $20,000. To date $23,000 has been raised with another $5,000 possible. This will be used to cover the cost of the 5 programs in the series. These programs are outside of the Town budget.

Transportation: C. Burns reported that additional talks have been had with UBER. Questions were raised and we are waiting for a response. Based on the initial information, it does not appear that UBER would represent a significant savings over Greenwich Taxi and TAG but could be useful as an additional provider. Using UBER would require more staff time and effort than using Greenwich Taxi and TAG. The budget vote will be taken at the November meeting so a decision on transportation will need to be made by then.

Senior Center Director’s Report: L. Helmrich reported that work on the ramp is underway and is estimated to take about 2 months. The lower level work is on a hold until the weather cools enough to shut down the AC system to allow the moving of some pipes. A trip will be made with the designer to pick out furnishings. The Constant Contact system is running and staff is learning the system. This will allow for easy distribution of notices, flyers, etc. Fitness classes are full.

Nathaniel Witherell: S. Katz reported that Nathaniel Witherell is still in a loss position but the situation has improved somewhat. Operations are doing well and they have a good, engaged board.

Director’s Report: L. Contadino distributed a breakdown of the sponsorship donations received and presented a layout of a breakfast place mat for the program showing sponsor’s listings. The Medicare D open enrollment period begins soon and counselor training is underway. There will be one new counselor and there are 5 or 6 active counselors. A proposal was submitted to and accepted by the Columbia University Consulting Workshop program to assist us in the age friendly
Greenwich initiative. A meeting will be held with the consulting team after the Commission meeting. The entire age friendly designation process with AARP and the World Health Organization will be a multi year process. The head of the consulting group, professor Norman Toy introduced himself. The senior tax relief committee will be meeting with the Town Assessor after the Commission meeting.

Assessor: Town Assessor Lauren Eliott addressed the Commission and answered questions. The assessor's office has seen an increase in income with some tax relief recipients that has made them ineligible. The office has also seen that a number of recipients have either died (14) or sold their homes (26). This is out of 583 regular plus 36 co-op owners in the program. The issue was raised of excluding social security income from the formula for those on Title 19 who receive home care. Also the issue of considering a hardship exemption for those with unusually large medical expenses was raised.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Commission will be held on October 19, 2016.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary