COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Attending: P. Burns, Presiding; W. Blumenthal; Francis Burgweger; C. Burns; James Dougherty; S. Katz.
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.

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

Minutes: Minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting were distributed and approved unanimously with C. Burns abstaining as she did not attend the October meeting.

Senior Center Administrator’s Report:
L. Helmrich reported that the Town was processing Park Pass applications and renewals on site for seniors. The Thanksgiving party will be held on Friday, November 18. 150 people are signed up. The lower level work is progressing with the ceiling, lighting and flooring yet to be completed. A field trip was made to look at possible furniture for the waiting area, art room and dining room. Printouts of possibilities were circulated. Also a visit was made to the Westport Senior Center to see its setup.

Social Services:
C. Burns reported that there was nothing new to report.

Nathaniel Witherell:
S. Katz reported that Nathaniel Witherell is still working on a strategic plan and whether or not to get into the home care business. They are also looking at ways to attract more clients. A discussion was had on the future of Nathaniel Witherell and the Town owning and operating a SNF.

Transportation:
C. Burns reported that the Uber representative made a presentation. Uber does not appear to be a short term option as it needs to develop policies, etc. but should still be considered as a long term option. It was suggested that we also explore Lyft. We are waiting to hear back from Norwalk transit on which members have qualified for Easy Access. The Senior Center received calls from people asking about rides to the polls on election day. It was suggested that prior to the next election we have a list of numbers that people can call for rides and that we put the information in the Lantern. It was also suggested that we see if the Town Clerk’s Office could have someone at the Center to process absentee ballot applications.

Director’s Report:
L. Contadino reported that the Columbia team met onsite yesterday regarding the Age Friendly Greenwich initiative. The application will be completed in the next few days and is in good shape. A presentation will be made to the Board of
Selectmen at its December 8 meeting for approval to proceed with the application. Commission members are encouraged to attend to show support for the initiative. The next phase would be the development of a timetable. An RTM member contacted the office and suggested that the Commission take the lead in a petition to Optimum about its proposed rate increase. After discussion it was determined that as this is an economic issue, not a senior specific issue, and therefore not an issue the Commission should take on.

**MOTION:** After consideration of a request for consideration of the fee increase presented by Optimum as an issue on which the Commission should lobby, it is the consensus of the Commission that this is not strictly a senior issue it is an economic issue outside of the purview of the Commission. Seconded. Carried.

Health insurance counseling continues. With three weeks to go, just under $100,000.00 in savings has been realized for clients. There has been an increase in the number of clients counseled.

**Budget:**
The Commission and Senior Center budgets were distributed, reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the food line was increased as the existing contract is up to go out to bid. There has been no increase during the term of the existing contract so an increase can be expected. The contract goes to bid as part of a package with the Nathaniel Witherell food service so it is out of our control.

**MOTION:** To adopt the Commission on Aging and Senior Center Budgets as presented but giving discretion to amend lines as long as the aggregate increase over current year does not exceed 1.96%. Seconded. Carried.

**Operating Plan:**
The current strategic plan and mission statements are out of date and updating needs to be a priority. It was suggested that the Friends might hire a consultant to review and revise the mission statement and strategic plan.

**MOTION:** To accept the Commission on Aging and Senior Center Operating Plans as presented. Seconded. Carried.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Commission will be held on January 18, 2017.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
James B. Dougherty
Secretary