

Commission on Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
December 19, 2011

Present: Chair Christine Robertson, Kathy Brennan, Liz Doty, Marion Freer, Alice Kenny-Lucas, Mary Morrisroe, Mary Ann O'Grady, Sheila Silverman

Chair Robertson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed this Commission's new member, Liz Doty. The Chair distributed Members List and a List of 2012 Meeting Dates.

Mall Bus

Mrs Robertson has received a bill of \$142.98 for the October 9th and November 2nd "Mall Bus". Since ridership continues low, she recommends that we discontinue the service as of January 2012. Mary Morrisroe moved that this Commission discontinue funding for the "Mall Bus" as of January 2012. Alice Kenny-Lucas seconded the motion. All present agreed.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 21st meeting were reviewed by members—one correction necessary: our new member's first name is not Elizabeth. It is Lizabeth. Sheila Silverman moved that the Minutes be accepted with correction. Kathy Brennan seconded the motion. All present agreed.

Eating with Ease

Eloise Barron of RVNA's Quality Living at home, reported that Sheila Silverman, who volunteered to participate, enrolled in Stop & Shop's Pea Pod and found it easy to use. Pea Pod, however, has a \$60 minimum order. Sheila feels she would like to sign up for Ancona's—a \$20 minimum order. Discussion followed. Eloise commented that seniors would not have to order all the time. They could wait for a time when there was a need to stock up. Eloise stressed that this program would be helpful if a storm was coming and a senior could order and not have to fight crowds in stores, etc. Eating with Ease would also be valuable if someone became ill; however it would be important to learn the system prior to getting sick.

HART—SweetHART Bus

Richard Schreiner, Director of Service Development at the HART Bus Company, first advised that as there had not been any signups for the December "Mall Bus", it had been cancelled. He advised he would be happy to answer questions regarding SweetHART bus service. Questions were raised about the amount of assistance the drivers would give

riders as well as on booking a trip. If a senior wanted to make a booking for a trip at the same time and same day for a number of weeks, could it be done and for how long. Mr. Schreiner advised that SweetHART bus will accept a "standard booking" for a six month period. Alice advised that several people at Congregate Housing have this type of appointment. She mentioned that it is important to call if you need to cancel.

Eloise questioned the bus drivers' ability to assist passengers. Schreiner said that the driver can help riders on and off the bus and can assist with three bags. More discussion followed. Mr. Schreiner agreed to check out the following and advise Chris Robertson:

- *can the driver escort a passenger up and down the stairs of their home if needed

- *percentage of "standard bookings"

- *number of rides per month

Mrs. Robertson thanked Mr. Schreiner for his help.

Senior Services Directory

Update of the new edition will start at our January meeting. We approved the updated letter and application forms for Contractors and Tradespersons at our November meeting. Copies of pages will be distributed for members to check and update. Eloise Barron volunteered to take a new picture of Commission members for the Directory. It is estimated that the cost of the new edition will be \$5,000.

Emergency Fuel Fund

After discussion, Mary Morrisroe moved that the Commission on Aging give \$4,000 of the funds donated by the Leir Foundation to Ridgefield Social Services to provide help to Ridgefield seniors needing assistance in obtaining fuel. Sheila Silverman seconded the motion. All agreed.

Liz Doty mentioned that in Wilton, certain oil companies include an envelope in their bills for contributions to the Interfaith Fund which provides fuel assistance to the needy. She wondered if something similar could be done in Ridgefield. Members were very interested. Chris Robertson will discuss with Carole Konner of Social Services.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrisroe, Secretary

The next meeting of this Commission will be Monday, January 23, 2012, in the small Lower Level Conference Room, Town Hall, at 2:30 p.m.

Anyone requiring special accommodation due to disability is asked to contact Christine Robertson, Chair at 203-438-6165