

Ridgefield Commission on Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
November 21, 2011

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Chair Christine Robertson. Mrs. Robertson introduced Elizabeth (Liz) Doty, a prospective member of this Commission. Chris distributed a list of 2012 Meeting dates for this Commission. Mrs. Robertson advised that this Commission had received \$12,000 from the Lasig Fund for the SweetHart Bus. We had requested \$20,000. Mrs. Robertson also advised that Eileen Wilson had resigned from this Commission. Eileen will accompany her husband to his new position in Tokyo, Japan!

SweetHart Bus Service

Our cost for the "Mall" bus from October 2010 to August 2011 was \$786.39. We have not received a bill for September, October, and November, 2011. Ridership is low. Members asked as to whether the "Medical" Bus could drop off people at the Mall on its way to Danbury and pick shoppers up on the way back. Jean Wolnick, Municipal Agent for the Elderly, advised that a state grant had been obtained for the "Medical" Bus and there would/could be questions raised about such a combination of riders. Members had other questions about the bus service, and the Chair advised that Rich Schreiner of HART would attend our next meeting. Questions could be directed to him.

Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of the October meeting. Sheila Silverman moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Mary Ann O'Grady seconded the motion. All present agreed.

Ridgefield Housing Summit

Chair Robertson and Alice Kenny-Lucas attended as did Ridgefield government and business officials. Demographics of the town were reviewed. The need for affordable housing is increasing. The senior population is increasing in Ridgefield and other suburbs. The current economic climate is not encouraging.

Senior Directory

Mary Ann O'Grady updated the form to be sent to Local Contractors and Tradespersons. Members approved the update.(attached). Chris Robertson will obtain an estimate on the cost to print the new edition. It was agreed that we will start work on the new edition of the Senior Directory at our January 2012 meeting.

"Energy" Funds

At the next meeting we will review this Committee's funds and see what we can donate to the Fuel Fund for Seniors. The Town also has an Energy Fund for others. The Town Food Bank is well stocked. Chris will advise the RVNA food bank.

Eating with Ease

Eloise Barron introduced Morgan Sandhu, a girl scout working on a Gold Award project to help senior citizens have easier access to nutritious foods. (attached) Morgan's plan sets up three levels of service to help seniors shop for groceries and/or have them delivered. Members had many questions and comments. We commended Morgan for her efforts and asked that she keep us informed.

Eloise advised that Kehoe's Hardware will handle "ice melt" for "senior safe steps", and, once again, members of the Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club will deliver to seniors.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrisroe, Secretary

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, December 19, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in the small Lower Level Conference Room. Anyone requiring assistance due to disability is requested to call Christine Robertson on 203-438-6165