

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes  
October 15, 2018

Present: Chair Chris Robertson, Marion Freer, Mary Ann O'Grady, Sheila Silverman, Dayna Sierakowski, Mary Morrisroe, Debra Francheschini-Gatje, Advisor Karen Gaudian, Kathy Brennan, George Noyes.

Guest speakers: Rick Shriner from SweetHart Bus, David Smith from Rides for Ridgefield and Laurie Fernandez from Town/SPHERE bus

Minutes from last month's meeting presented and reviewed. Debra Francheschini-Gatje approved, Mary Morrisroe seconded.

Meeting called to order at 2:30pm.

George moved for COA to pay for postcards from Social Services re: CHOICES program, Sheila Silverman seconded. Motion was approved by commission. Cost was \$1795.53.

Debra stated that she has people reach out to her asking if we could record our meetings so that the public could have access to info if they cannot make the meeting. Tony Phillips stated that there are two ways to record—BOF, BOS do record, however, need money budgeted for that. However, if a member of the public attending the meeting recorded and put it online on social media, that would be permissible. Handouts at meetings should be attached with minutes on website.

Chris reported that we received letter and thank you from Kimberly Henderson at Congregate Housing in regard to where our donation has been spent (socials, food, etc.).

Karen talked about December meeting. Planning on a party/social, and to discuss topics for meetings in 2019. Debra talked about food for party. Further discussion needed.

November meeting topic will be "Elder Law," with 2 attorneys attending to discuss estate planning, long term care planning, trusts, etc. Debra discussed marketing for meetings—Hamlet Hub, Facebook-Ridgefield, CT & Hello Ridgefield, and the Ridgefield Press. George asked if we had ability to send info out to various community groups—churches, Rotary, Lions club, Men's club, Women's Club, etc. This will be done.

Tony brought up grant from Leir for camp for seniors in 2019. Need to start planning process, find out costs, manage criteria for attendees, etc. Karen stated that they're meeting with the Salvation Army in the next week or so and will get some more information. Debra has offered to help Tony & Karen spearhead the effort.

### **Presentation on Town Transportation:**

#### SweetHart Bus

Rick Shriner from SweetHart bus was first speaker about town transportation. SweetHart bus is a "on demand service" for those 65 years or older and disabled. You need to register, and you call SweetHart office to arrange for transport. Service is within Ridgefield Mon-Fri. Hours are 8:45am-4:30pm. Can call a week ahead for any purpose, 2 weeks ahead for doctor appts. Best time to call is Monday before 11am the week before your needed trip. Can do a "standing booking" request for repeat appts. Have to schedule return trips, except for doctor appts. —then you call when appt. is done. 203-744-4070.

Limited options for same-day trips. Can call day of--\$4 for trip if they can provide transport  
Can bring pet in a carrier, can bring companions.

They do NOT track calls from people seeking rides to destinations outside of town.

<http://www.hartransit.com/sweethart/seniors>

#### Rides for Ridgefield

David Smith chair of board for Rides for Ridgefield spoke about services.

Incorporated in 2013. Started giving rides in 2014.

203-894-RIDE

<https://www.ridesforridgefield.org/>

Provide info about options available to residents. Provide free rides to Ridgefield Seniors and Ridgefield Residents with Mobility disabilities.

Must fill out rider agreement. Drivers are volunteers and fully vetted.

Riders have been taken as far as NYC and Rocky Hill.

Riders have to be able to get in and out of vehicle on their own.

### Town/SPHERE bus

Laurie Fernandez , Dir. Of Human Resources from Town Hall helps coordinate Town/SPHERE bus. There is a Tuesday medical bus to appointments in Danbury. Can call town hall by Thurs for following Tues medical bus to Danbury. Can only fit one person with wheelchair/scooter at a time, and users must be able to navigate bus stairs on their own. Can call info at Town Hall—basic info taken for dr appts.

Bus will come to resident's house. Bus not used too frequently—6 people regularly? Bus has to be back by 3:30/4pm, because of SPHERE use.

Weds Town Loop—bus drives around town for errands.

Thursdays-every other Thursday to Danbury and Brookfield.

If there are mobility issues or memory issues, then an aide is asked to come along.

<https://www.ridgefieldct.org/community/pages/town-bus-loop>

No intake needed for Weds & Thurs trips. Intake done for dr appts, so if issue arises, can call dr. office.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.



COA Speaker Series Presents

# Elder Law: Why Didn't I know This?

Monday, November 19th | 3:00 PM

Ridgefield Town Hall Conference Room

**FREE seminar**

**Attorneys Lynda Lee Arnold & Colleen Masse**

**Estate Planning**

**Long Term Care Planning**

**Pooled Trusts and more**

**Refreshments Provided by Meals on Wheels.**

Sponsored by;

The Commission on Aging and Czepiga, Daly, Pope & Perri

The COA meeting begins at 2:30 and is open to the public.