

**Senior Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 17, 2012
Town Hall, Old Town Road
10:15a.m.**

Present: Chair Gail Pierce, Sandra Kelly, Betsey DeMaggio, Betsy Theve and Linda Spak. Marguerite Donnelly, Sandra Hopf, Dorothy Graham and Janet Merritt were absent. Doris Hassinger was in the audience. Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes was present for the recording of minutes.

Gail Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Approve Minutes of Meeting February 21, 2012

Ms. Theve moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2012 as amended. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion and it carried.

5 Ayes (Pierce, Spak, Kelly, Theve, DeMaggio) 0 Nays
4 Absent (Merritt, Graham, Donnelly, Hopf)

Feedback from Sue Black re: the Van

Ms. Pierce noted that she had received correspondence from Sue Black of the Block Island Early Learning Center (BIELC) stating that they were pursuing a grant from the Roosa Foundation for a van to be owned and insured by the Town and leased to BIELC. She explained that a special license would not be necessary to drive the van and she would encourage the SAC to use it.

Update on ongoing activities-

Senior Moments Pamphlet

Ms. Kelly stated that the newly revised Senior Moments brochure was sent out with the Block Island Power (BIPCO) bills in April. She further stated that she sent a thank you note to BIPCO's fiscal clerk Abra Savoie. It was noted that a thank you letter will also be sent to BIPCO.

Block Island Bulletin Board... ideas for more publicity

Ms. Kelly reported that there were 153 members of the Bulletin Board and there have been 205 postings to date. Ms. Kelly will place an ad in the Block Island Times promoting the program which will run at the end of May and the end of June. Ms. Spak will contact Meghan Moran at Interstate Navigation, asking that they join and post ferry cancellations.

Swimming pool

Ms. Spak reported that she was informed that the Neptune House Board of Directors does not receive and act on correspondence and that all requests must go through the manager Meredith McAloon. Ms. Spak will continue to pursue talks to allow the installation of stairs into the Neptune pool.

FISH

Ms. Pierce noted that she ran a statement under “On the Block” in the Block Island Times for three weeks, soliciting those who are in need of FISH services. There were no inquiries. Gloria Redlich of the Times will reiterate the services FISH can provide in her article.

Soup Group and Lunch Bunch

More Publicity/Rename Soup Group/Change Menu

Ms. Pierce reported that the numbers at Soup Group are dwindling; therefore the lunch may need to be refreshed. The following suggestions were made:

- Add a sandwich with the soup
- Serve casserole instead of soup
- Expand take-out
- Promote a “buddy system” – of bringing someone with you
- Consider a name change, deleting the word “soup”

Budget request – at this time the Town Council had given us \$5,000 for a Senior Coordinator. In anticipation of receiving this, we need to put together a Job description and a list of requirement for said person.

It was noted that the Town Council funded the Senior Advisory Committee with \$5,000, some of which to use towards hiring a senior coordinator. The budget will go to the tax payers for approval at Financial Town Meeting on May 7, 2012. A job description, salary and list of qualifications for the position need to be finalized. Ms. Spak will work with Ms. Merritt to finalize the specifications. Ms. Kelly suggested including coordinating FISH, Senior Moments, and the Block Island Bulletin Board as responsibilities. Ms. Spak suggested gathering info and sample job descriptions from other communities.

“SpringThing”. A gathering of seniors that would like information on the Block Island Bulletin Board- this was tabled at the last meeting.

It was decided to do “How to” - Block Island Bulletin Board presentations at Soup Group and Lunch Bunch and not hold a separate event.

Seniors with Seniors.....Activities

Ms. Pierce noted that Dottie Graham has been speaking with contacts at the school to organize a seniors with seniors lunch.

Accept Janet Merritt’s request to “retire”

Ms. Pierce acknowledged the receipt of Janet Merritt’s resignation from the Committee. The Town Council will formally accept the resignation at their upcoming meeting. Ms. Pierce thanked Ms. Merritt for her service, noting she was looking forward to working with her in the future.

Newport Flower Show – Friday, June 22- Sunday, June 24

Ms. Pierce noted that the recreation van would not be available off-island for the Newport Flower Show, June 22 – 24, 2012. She stated that she would survey trip interest through the Bulletin Board and possibly use personal transportation.

Cribbage tournament?

Ms. Pierce suggested starting a cribbage tournament – offering one hour of instruction followed by an hour of play, for both novice and experienced players. She will survey interest through the Bulletin Board.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 10:15 a.m.

Ms. Theve made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. Ms. DeMaggio seconded with all in favor.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: May 15, 2012