

**Senior Advisory Committee**  
**November 13, 2012**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Present: Chair Gail Pierce, Sandra Kelly, Dorothy Graham, Betsy Theve, Linda Spak, Betsey DeMaggio and Deborah Martin. Also present were Senior Coordinator Kathleen Mitchell and for the recording of minutes, Millie McGinnes. Sandra Hopf and Ann Henault were absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gail Pierce at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Pierce and the committee members welcomed new member Debbie Martin.

**1. Approve Minutes of meeting, October 16, 2012.**

Betsy Theve moved to approve the minutes of October 16, 2012 as amended. The motion was seconded by Betsey DeMaggio and carried.

Ayes 7 (Pierce, Kelly, Graham, Theve, Spak, DeMaggio, Martin) Nays 0  
Absent 2 (Henault, Hopf)

**2. Discuss distribute information from the visit of Suzanne Carson of South County Community Action Agency.**

It was noted that Suzanne Carson of the South County Community Action Agency (SCCA) came out and conducted four or five appointments with seniors looking for services. SCCA has heating assistance and weatherization grants available. Ms. Graham will look into the application process in order to help those in need apply. Ms. Spak may contact selected seniors to alert them of the programs.

**3. Senior Coordinator Kathleen Mitchell's report**

**a. Activities**

Senior Coordinator Kathleen Mitchell stated that she would like to target activities to increase participation. Ms. Mitchell will have attendees sign up in advance for speakers and when appropriate, will try to couple them with Soup Group or Lunch Bunch. It was decided that a monthly calendar of activities will be developed to post around town and post on the Block Island Bulletin Board. Ms. Mitchell will write an article for the paper clarifying WAVE transportation info, highlighting Bulletin Board signup and noting that heating assistance is available.

**b. Sponsors for certain activities**

Ms. Mitchell stated that she was looking for volunteers to help host events. She will send out an email to board members when she needs a host volunteer.

**c. Monies to BIED**

It was noted that the Committee should consider making a donation to BIED for the use of the community center. This item will be on next month's meeting agenda.

Ms. Theve left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

**4. Affordable Care Act for Seniors ~ discuss and review**

Ms. Kelly distributed a paper with some information regarding the Affordable Care Act – Benefits for Seniors. She asked that the committee members look at the information on the noted website for discussion at the next meeting.

**5. Island wide notification systems.... identify and review various programs**

It was noted that Ann Henault was working on collecting information regarding various notification systems for use island wide. Ms. Kelly volunteered to contact Global Connect to get further information. Ms. Pierce will also discuss the issue with Police Chief Vin Carlone.

**6. Update on ongoing activities-**

**a. Soup Group ~Thanksgiving week**

**b. Lunch Bunch**

It was noted that both Soup Group and Lunch Bunch are going well, with large numbers of attendees.

**c. Block Island Bulletin Board ~ Discuss appropriate postings**

Ms. Kelly reported that there are 204 members of the Bulletin Board. She offered to contact Interstate Navigation and ask that they join and post ferry service cancellations on the Bulletin Board.

**7. Senior tax exemptions ~ How do we/ and do we need to notify persons eligible?**

It was suggested that information regarding the increase in household income levels in order for a senior to be eligible for a tax exemption should be disseminated by:

- The Block Island Bulletin Board; and
- Through church announcements.

**8. Review and discuss “Food delivery program”**

It was noted that one person has taken advantage of the food delivery program through Mabel’s. There has been additional interest too. It was decided to have the program publicized in island church announcements.

**Next Meeting –December 18, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.**

At 11:02 a.m. a motion was made by Ms. Kelly and seconded by Ms. DeMaggio to adjourn and voted unanimously.

Millie McGinnes  
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved: December 18, 2012