

**Senior Advisory Committee
December 18, 2012
Town Hall, Old Town Road
10:00 a.m.**

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

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

Approve Minutes of Meeting, November 13, 2012.

Ms. Pierce moved to approve the minutes of November 13, 2012 as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Graham and carried.

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

Debbie Martin was not yet present for the vote.

The Committee decided to rearrange the agenda to address BIED before the Senior Coordinators Report.

BIED

a. A new organization to run the facilities is being set up and is to include various organizations that use the Community Center

Ms. Martin joined the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Ms. Pierce explained that a new group was being put together to organize and run the Community Center. The group may include representatives of BIED, BIELC, Soup Group, Lunch Bunch and the Senior Advisory Committee. The Senior Advisory Committee members asked for additional information regarding the duties of the group.

b. Representative from Senior group

Ms. Spak volunteered to act as the SAC representative for the time being.

c. Discuss and act on authorization for donations for facility use

Following discussion, Ms. Kelly moved to donate \$100 to the Block Island Economic Development Foundation for the use of the Community Center in 2012. The motion was seconded and carried.

Ayes 8 (Pierce, Kelly, Graham, Spak, Henault, Hopf, DeMaggio, Martin) Nays 0
Absent 1 (Theve)

Senior Coordinator Kathleen Mitchell's report

a) Activities

Senior Coordinator Kathleen Mitchell thanked the Committee members for their help. She noted that a thank you card was received from Suzanne Carson of Medicare for the hospitality received

during her visit. Ms. Mitchell distributed a report to the members (attached). She noted the following regarding activities:

- A fresh fruit and vegetable distribution program may be implemented. She has a donor to cover the costs of the produce.
- Nutritional/wellness workshops are in the works, including exercise programs.
- Off-island trips will be cut down to once per month.
- Mixed age programs are being explored.
- “Real Deal” programs should be explored in which senior’s real needs are identified and those needs are fulfilled by volunteers (perhaps FISH) and/or services.

b) Recruit Sponsors for Various Activities

Ms. Mitchell noted that she will be traveling in January and she is looking for volunteers to help host events during her absence. Ms. Kelly and Ms. Martin volunteered to help with the Wednesday walks.

c) Petty Cash

It was noted that next month’s agenda will have an item to authorize expenditure to fund the Senior Coordinator’s petty cash.

d) Visit to Sandy Gaffett’s House

Ms. Mitchell noted that Lew Gaffett was potentially interested in turning Sandra Gaffett’s house into a type of assisted living facility and was looking for volunteers to serve on an exploratory committee. It was noted that such a business would be a private enterprise and it was not under the auspices of the committee.

e) Need for a Community Calendar

It was noted that a community calendar will be worked on.

Update and Discuss “Food Delivery Program”

a) Changes in Vendor

b) Financial Help

c) Name

d) Vote on Need to Initiate Program

It was noted that Mabel’s went out of business, therefore they will not be offering a food delivery program. Ms. Mitchell stated that Juice and Java may offer such in the future. It was suggested that the Block Island Grocery may be able to provide and subsidize such meals. Ms. DeMaggio and Ms. Mitchell will work together on investigating such a program.

Budget

a) General Information

It was noted that the budget is due to the Town Manager in February. Ms. Pierce explained that Senior Coordinator Mitchell works many extra hours per week as a volunteer. Ms. Mitchell stated that the job is now working out to 25 hours per week, and currently 5 hours per week are funded.

b) Appoint Budget Subcommittee

Ms. Kelly, Ms. Graham, Ms. Hopf and Ms. Mitchell will work together to develop a budget for the next meeting. It was noted that former member Janet Merritt is also willing to help.

Affordable Care Act for Seniors ~ discuss and review

It was suggested that someone be invited to the island to discuss the changes associated with the Affordable Care Act as it applies to the senior population. Ms. Kelly and Ms. Mitchell will look into such.

Update on Heating Assistance Program

Ms. Graham reviewed the guidelines for applying for the heating assistance program through South County Community Action (SCCA). Ms. Mitchell suggested that two people liaison with SCCA to help those in need access the different programs offered by the organization. It was noted that a Senior Welfare Coordinator was needed. It was suggested that the heating assistance program be promoted through an article in the Block Island Times, announcements through church services and through the Helping Hands food pantry.

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

Ms. Pierce stated that she met with Police Chief Vin Carlone who assured Ms. Pierce that the Department checked on those that may be in need during storms. Ms. Henault will contact Nantucket and Fishers Island and Ms. Spak will contact Monhegan Island and Martha's Vineyard to determine what type of island wide notification systems they use and how they operate. It was suggested that a presentation be made to the Town Council at a future date.

Discuss Possible Hospice Program on the Island

Ms. Pierce reported that Nora Forbes, RN is on the island and available for hire. It was noted that there were other providers that offer hospice and other in-home services both on and off island. The Committee agreed that a directory of services would be helpful. Ms. Kelly, Ms. Hopf and Ms. Mitchell committed to developing such a directory.

Follow-Up on Senior Tax Exemptions

Ms. Kelly noted that the updated senior tax exemption must be applied for by the end of the calendar year. She will ensure an announcement is included in the paper announcing the deadline.

Set Annual Meeting Schedule for 2013

Ms. Henault moved to set the 2013 annual meeting schedule to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Graham seconded the motion and it carried.

Ayes 8 (Pierce, Kelly, Graham, Spak, Henault, Hopf, DeMaggio, Martin) Nays 0

Absent 1 (Theve)

The 2013 meeting dates are as follows:

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Next Meeting –January 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

It was noted that the January meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., not at 10:00 a.m.

At 11:47 a.m. a motion was made by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. Spak to adjourn and unanimously approved.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved: January 15, 2013