

**Senior Advisory Committee**  
**April 16, 2013**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**9:30 a.m.**

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gail Pierce at 9:30 a.m.

**Approve Minutes of Meeting, March 19, 2013**

Ms. Henault moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2013. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wright and carried.

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

**Senior Coordinator Kathleen Mitchell's Report**

**a) Activities**

Ms. Mitchell reviewed the activities she had scheduled for April including trips, intergenerational activities and alternative health programs.

**b) Recruit Sponsors for Various Activities**

Ms. Mitchell thanked Ms. Wright and Ms. Spak for their help with the Spring Salad program.

**c) Status of Town Wide Community Calendar**

It was noted that the Block Island Times was going to follow up on the creation of a town-wide community calendar, but there has been no activity at this time.

**d) Creative ways for Publicity: Block Island Grocery; Block Island Times**

It was noted that publicity for activities and events has been a challenge, as the internet has been down and spotty and the Block Island Times has repeatedly bumped the senior column due to space issues. It was suggested that a smaller box be run in the paper only highlighting the new and/or special events. Ms. Pierce will inquire about installing a frame in the foyer of the Block Island Grocery to insert a weekly list of activities.

**Membership Fee – Discuss and act on initiating minimal “membership” fee**

Ms. Pierce explained that creating a membership fee for senior activities was suggested at a budget hearing. No action was taken on this item.

**Report on Budget Hearings**

It was noted that the Council did not act favorably upon the Senior Advisory Commissions' budget request for \$16,725.

**Discuss Financial Town Meeting Strategies**

Following a lengthy discussion, Ms. Graham moved to authorize Ms. Pierce, Ms. Spak and Ms. Wright to strategize and compose appropriate communications to garner support for additional funding at Financial Town Meeting. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion and it carried.

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

**Update on Exercise Space**

Ms. Spak reported that Club Soda was looking into filing for a zoning amendment to allow for a gym in the Highview building.

Ms. Wright stated that she spoke with Nat Gaffett about using the space behind the Old Island Pub for a gym. He said he would discuss it further.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the basement of the Medical Center for a gym.

**Food Stamp Possibilities**

Discussion ensued regarding the use of food stamps on the island. It was noted that other organizations were investigating the implementation of the program. The committee will continue to follow the issue.

**Block Island Bulletin Board**

**a) Update on Activity**

Ms. Kelly reported that there were 224 members of the Bulletin Board and 1,100 messages posted at this point.

**b) Review Google Groups Calendar program**

Ms. Kelly is looking into implementing a calendar program through Google Groups, though it is currently not working. Ms. Mitchell will see if she can find a student to assist with the implementation.

Ms. DeMaggio left the meeting at 11:04 p.m.

Ms. Pierce moved to amend the agenda to discuss ObamaCare and town-wide notification. Ms. Wright seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Ms. Kelly reported that she found an app. for a mobile device called ObamaCare 411 which gives contact information, has an insurance calculator and defines how personal and business insurance will be affected. After investigating the app, Ms. Kelly will send out an informative message on the BI Bulletin Board.

Town-wide notification will be on the next agenda.

**Next Meeting – May 21, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.**

At 11:12 a.m. a motion was made by Ms. Spak and seconded by Ms. Wright to adjourn and unanimously approved.

Millie McGinnes  
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved: April 29, 2013