

Senior Advisory Committee
January 21, 2014
Town Hall, Old Town Road
9:30 a.m.

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

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

1. Approve Minutes of Meeting, December 17, 2013

Ms. Kelly moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. DeMaggio and carried.

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

2. Review Committee goals and charges

Ms. Pierce read the Senior Advisory Committee's charge aloud. She noted that the library was taking over a lot of senior social activities and perhaps the committee should focus more on helping seniors maintain residence on the island. Some challenges regarding aging on Block Island were noted, such as transportation, logistics with travel and medical needs. Some committee members will reach out to elder residents to see what services could be provided that they would find helpful. Ms. Spak suggested partnering with the medical center and suggested the Block Island Health Services President and board members be invited to a future meeting. The need for a social worker was mentioned. From the audience, Bill Wilson stated that the position of Director of Public Welfare already exists in the Town government structure. He suggested petitioning the Town to expand the role of the position to act as a social worker.

3. Update on Town-wide notification systems presentation to the Town Council

Ms. Kelly explained that a database of notification numbers/emails needs to be put together locally to send to Notify Now. The committee concurred that they will strive to present the Notify Now system to the Town Council in March. The Committee thanked Ms. Kelly and Ms. Henault for their work on the project.

4. Initiate new activities for 2014

Ms. Martin, Ms. DeMaggio and Ms. Wright came up with list of activities which they will organize with the help of Ms. Kelly: pasta making, bread making, chair caning, terrarium building, bingo, knife sharpening, sewing, knitting, flower arranging and a pot-luck dinner.

5. Review and discuss University of the 3rd Age

Elsbeth Crawford was present and presented information regarding University of the 3rd Age (U3A). She explained that it is a grassroots membership of people (with a small committee and by-laws) that further themselves through fostering intellectual and social growth and activity through homegrown courses, meetings and fieldtrips. Ms. Crawford will draft up an information sheet regarding U3A and will work with Ms. Pierce and Ms. Kelly on details of administering such a program.

6. Review and discuss the "Time Banking" program

Ms. Pierce stated that a time bartering system called “Time Banking” was brought to the Committee in the fall by Rosemarie Ives and Mary Donnelly. It was noted that such a program was labor intensive and required a lot of bookkeeping. No further action was taken.

7. Review and act on Financial Statements

The financial statements were reviewed. A meeting to act on the FY 2015 budget was scheduled for February 3, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

8. Discuss and act on Senior Coordinator position

No action was taken on this item.

9. Update on activities and entertain ideas for publicity...

a. BIBB – Review criteria for publishing

Ms. Kelly reported that the Bulletin Board currently has 382 members and have posted 1787 messages to date.

b. Soup Group

c. Lunch Bunch

It was reported that Lunch Bunch and Soup Group are going well.

d. Chair Aerobics

A reminder of the day and time of chair aerobics will be posted on the Bulletin Board and in the calendar in the newspaper.

Ms. Kelly noted that a AED class has been set for February 4, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

10. Elect new officers

Discussion ensued regarding new officers.

Ms. Pierce moved to elect Gail Pierce and Sandra Kelly as Co-Chairs, Dorothy Graham as Vice Chair and Debbie Martin as Secretary. Ms. Spak seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Next meeting – February 3, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

At 11:15 a.m. a motion was made by Ms. Henault and seconded by Ms. DeMaggio to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved: February 3, 2014