

**Senior Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2015**  
**New Shoreham Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**9:30 a.m.**

Present: Co-Chair Gail Pierce, Members – Ann Henault, Deborah Martin, Linda Spak, Dorothy Graham, Betsey DeMaggio and Susie Wright. Absent were members Sandra Kelly, and Sandra Hopf. Also present were Senior Coordinator Anna Christina Rogers, Gloria Redlich reporting for the BI Times, Fiona Fitzpatrick for the recording of minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Gail Pierce at 9:31 a.m.

**1. Approve Minutes of meeting, April 28, 2015**

Ms. Pierce moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2015 meeting, seconded by Ms. Spak.

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

**2. Report of Senior Coordinator Anna Christina Rogers**

Ms. Rogers reported.

- Mary Ellen Thibodaux's Parkinson's presentation was a success with more than 20 people attending. Another session will be offered in the fall.
- There will be a presentation on wills and trusts today.
- Ms. Rogers will assess interest in a trip to the Newport Flower Show on June 20. The Recreation van is on the Island and is available. It was not clear what budget would cover the cost of bringing the van back and forth.
- The "Physical Therapy for Caregivers Support" session has been postponed.
- The AARP driving course will be held from 11:15 to 3:15 on June 3. The Committee will provide a sandwich lunch for participants.

**3. Receive and discuss financial reports**

The financial report of May 31, 2015 is attached to these minutes. There is a balance of \$3,133.53. Still to be deducted are the Senior Coordinator's computer (\$1,224) and the fee for the Community Center. At the June meeting the Committee will take action to request any unexpended funds be reallocated to the next fiscal year.

**4. Act on fee to BIED re: Use of the Community Center**

A motion was made by Ms. Graham and seconded by Ms. DeMaggio to pay \$300 to Block Island Economic Development for use of the Community Center for April, May and June.

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

**5. Report on discussions with OSCIL (Ocean State Center for Independent Living)**

Gail Pierce reported Ocean State for Center for Independent Living will service the Island. OSCIL offers evaluations and retrofits for homes of those with physical challenges. The

evaluation is free and the work may be income indexed. There has been a local presentation by a different firm offering the same service.

**6. Discuss and act on “social activities” cooking and crafts**

Committee members agreed action on social activities such as cooking and crafts will be organized later in the summer so they can begin in the fall.

**7. Update on status of “Notify Now”**

Meetings with the Town Manager have been postponed; another meeting will be scheduled after Ms. Kelly is back May 26.

**8. Continue discussion of possible areas for exercise**

The group discussed using the school cafeteria for exercise or walking when it is not being used for food service. Another possibility is winter “hall walking.” Susie Wright and Betsy DeMatteo will follow up with the school. Ms. Pierce suggested incentivizing exercise groups with a prize for best attendance.

**9. Discuss and act on potential visit(s) by Annie Varca, Senior Companion Healthcare Advocate**

Ms. Graham said Annie Varca is available to come to the Island to run gentle exercise classes. If she comes, it is hoped she will use music familiar to seniors. Existing on-Island resources were also discussed. Ms. Rogers will follow up.

**10. Revisit needs for handicapped access: Parking, Restaurants, Beach Access**

Ms. Pierce said a complaint was received from Edith Blane because only one handicap parking space is available at the post office and there are few at local restaurants. Also, the ferry terminal has several spaces but customers must walk back to their car with a parking placard after purchasing a ticket. The complaint was discussed and Ms. Pierce will follow up with the Building Official and the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities.

**11. Update on activities:**

**a. BIBB**

The Block Island Bulletin Board has 656 members.

**b. Soup Group**

Soup group will not meet on Friday, May 22. It will resume Tuesday May 26 and serve soup, bread and desert every Tuesday through the summer. There was discussion of adding a sandwich or salad but that has been tried in the past without much success. People tend to be fussy about sandwich choices.

**c. Lunch Bunch**

Lunch Bunch has ended for the summer and will resume in the fall. It provides isolated seniors with a meal and social time. Problems encountered over the winter were too many people in the kitchen, meals served too early, dishes cleared too quickly and too brusquely and an atmosphere that did not encourage social lingering for seniors. Before Lunch Bunch resumes rules will be

developed and posted to limit the number of volunteers in the kitchen, keep meals on schedule and encourage lingering, possibly by offering games after the meal as in the past.

**d. Chair Aerobics**

Robin Lewis continues to offer chair aerobics at the Community Center at 10:30 on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Minutes submitted May 21, 2019. Minutes approved June 17, 2015.

Fiona Fitzpatrick, Town Clerk