

**MINUTES**  
**Commission on Aging Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, December 27, 2017  
Community Center Room 107

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 1/23/18  
TIME: 12:25 pm  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Members Present:** Phyllis Jachimowski, Robert Newton, Kathryn Rich and Suzanne Reilly

**Members Absent:** Evelyn Molner

**Guest:** Teila Cheever, MSW Resident Services Coordinator, Callahan House Association

**Others Present:** Mary McNelis, Community Services Director, Lucy McConologue, Elderly Services Manager

**Absent:** Bonnie Wilkes, Municipal Agent

1. **Call meeting to order.** The meeting was called to order by Suzanne in Evelyn's absence @ 10:13 a.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Approval of November 22, 2017 meeting minutes.** A motion was made by Bob and seconded by Kathryn to approve November 22, 2017 minutes with a correction in the spelling of Bob's last name (removing the second w), motion carried.
5. **Guest – Teila Cheever, Community Services Director was invited to discuss her role as the Resident Services Director and the challenges of the mixed population of seniors and disabled (currently @ 50 – 50 %) residing in Seymour Housing facilities. The goal is to have individuals live independently as long as possible and Teila's role is to help connect individuals to services within the community and to avoid duplication of services. She doesn't provide direct services. There are 150 residents and she responsible to developing partnerships to assist the residents. The Gaps in Services that she has identified includes transportation issues and the housing crisis. The average cost for rent is \$733 (subsidized at 30% of income) for affordable safe housing. Phyllis asked what we can do to make the residents feel safer. Teila mentioned there are similar concerns across the country. They have been working closely with the police department. They have an anonymous tip line and the Community Services officer is present 1 day per week. A solution would be hiring a Security guard, but the obstacle is the funding. Concerns about the use of medical marihuana and that it is not permitted on federal grounds property. The police officers are participating in Special training to identify that the prescriptions for the medical marihuana are legit. There is an active tenant association, with an emphasis on Resident empowerment. The schedule trips, educational sessions and more programs have been set up to provide Blood pressure screenings utilizing the Valley Parish Nurses, a smoking session class and veterans services.**

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**A Senior Community Café in partnership with TEAM, Inc. provides lunchtime meals Monday – Friday. The Stigma and lack of family support have been challenges. There have been more programs set up to provide Blood pressure screenings utilizing the Valley Parish Nurses, a smoking session class and veterans services.**

6. **Elderly Services Manager Report:** Lucy presented a prepared **Senior Center Reports** dated December, 2017 (attached). Mary shared that the Center received a Valley Community Foundation \$2,400 Grant to offer free exercise classes, now through August. Mary reported that the membership is up by 64%; from 262 – 410 members. 298 are Seymour residents. They have been effectively tracking members and have had 10 new members in December. The increase has been attributed to the flyer mailing and the requiring of membership to participate in programs.
7. **Municipal Agent Report - Bonnie Wilkes, Municipal Agent for the Elderly** was not able to attend but relayed that the proposed cuts in the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) are delayed for three months. They are optimistic the cuts will be rolled back permanently. If there is no movement in that direction she suggests the Commission on Aging write a letter to our legislators. She has received many inquiries from Seymour clients on the MSP. They are all concerned and understand we are now waiting for some action.
8. **Public Comment:** None
9. **Old Business:** None
10. **New Business** – Committee Members who have been reappointed should be sworn in.
11. **The Charter Revisions** were reviewed and it was discussed that the role of the Commission on Aging members have changed since the Senior Services department is now part of Seymour Community Services and the Elderly Services Program Manager now reports to the Community Services Director.  
Examples (current Charter language is in bold):  
Re: **The Commission shall be responsible for the oversight of the general management and supervision of all activities, including the purchase and maintenance of all Senior Center property and equipment. It shall also develop and recommend a yearly budget proposal in conjunction with the Senior Citizen's Director for the submission to the First Selectman and boards of Selectmen and Finance as required by Section 12.3 of this Charter.** Presently, the Commission is not involved but does receive reports which include activities and purchases. Maintenance issues are not discussed. The Commission is not involved in the development of the budget, but we do receive a report from the Community Services Director.  
Re: **The Commission shall be the policy making authority and shall establish defined objectives to be executed by the Senior Citizens Director.** The commission currently only makes recommendations and is not the policy making authority.

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Re: It shall be responsible for interviewing the applicants for all employment positions and shall furnish the names of the top three (3) candidates to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration and action. Through the Senior Citizen's Director, the Commission shall also maintain a record of annual dues and fees for membership in the Senior Center and will submit all proceeds to the Town's Finance Department of Accountability purposes. After discussion it was recommended that at least one Commission member be included in the interview process if the Elderly Services Program Manager position should be open. Presently, staff records the dues and fees for membership and it is reported to the Commission monthly.

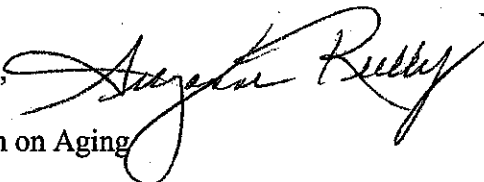
12. **Member Comment:** Mary was asked about the proposed budget for the upcoming year. Due to the proposed \$1.8m cut to the town, they have been asked to propose a 10 % decrease in funding and a 20% decreased funded budget proposals which will mean a drop in activities line. **A motion was made by Phyllis and seconded by Kathryn to recommend that we increase cost of the luncheons from \$8 to \$10 or \$12 if needed not to eliminate entertainment if at all possible. Motion carried.** It was also suggested to add a monthly financial report on the agenda going forward.

Phyllis mentioned that it appears that Wednesday is a quiet day at the center. Lucy mentioned that the chair massage and foot care programs have been popular; next month taxes will begin and in March free haircuts and manicures will be offered.

13. **Prepare January 24, 2018 meeting agenda** – Meeting at the Callahan House, Seymour.

14. **Adjournment** motion was made by Kathryn and seconded by Phyllis at 11:44.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Suzanne Reilly  
Secretary - Commission on Aging



DECEMBER 2017  
SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Thanks to a group of volunteers we were able to put up our Christmas Decorations to bring the Holiday Season to the Community Center. Everyone enjoyed and were rewarded with either 4 free Bingo Cards for a Tuesday Bingo or a free Fitness Class as well as enjoying Coffee and Goodies.

Many of our Special Activities included trips and activities celebrating the holidays

Fri. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - Travelled to Harford Wadsworth Atheneum for Annual Festival of Trees & Lunch at the Olive Garden.

Sat., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Annual Shopping Trip to Woodbury Commons

Wed. Dec., 6<sup>th</sup> - Lunch Bunch had lunch at Junipers and then went to St. George's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gingerbread Houses Display.

Sun. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> - Trip to Seven Angels Playhouse for production of "Nunsense Nutcracker Suite"

Wed., Dec., 13<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Party Favor Workshop

Tues., Dec., 19<sup>th</sup> - Special Christmas Bingo

Thurs., Dec., 21<sup>st</sup> - Christmas Luncheon catered by Matteis & Entertainment

The Center was closed Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Just a reminder that the Community Center/Senior Center is on the same schedule as the Town Hall and only closes when the Town Hall closes. We advise our Seniors to use caution during inclement weather before coming down to the center. Bus transportation for shopping is cancelled if school is closed and weather conditions prevent the bus from travelling.

Submitted by:

Lucy McConologue