

Commission for Senior Services Meeting
Friday, October 2, 2012
Westport Town Hall

Attendance: Teri Klein, Howard Maynard, Stan Nayer, Mike Stashower

Guests: Bill Meyer

Staff: Susan Pfister, Terry Giegengack,

New Business:

Annual Senior Services Coordinator Report. Terry Giegengack, Assistant Director, presented a summary of the annual report prepared by Sue Lebrija, Municipal Agent for Seniors who is appointed by Gordon Joseloff, First Selectman. Information and Referral are important issues. Energy Assistance continues to be a major need. Medicare & Medicaid and other health insurance issues are also a major concern for seniors. Requests for affordable housing are frequent. There are long wait lists at all Housing authorities in Westport and other Fairfield County towns. RSVP Medical Transportation Program is at full capacity serving seniors offering free rides to medical appointments. ITN Coastal CT is active and the amount of rides continue to increase. There is a need for more volunteers to meet the rising demand. The complete report is on file at Department of Human Services.

**Citizen Transit Committee Transportation Forum on Transit and Door-to-Door Services
October 4 Westport Center for Senior Activities.**

All seniors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Youth Commission meeting November 15. CSS members encouraged to attend.

Old Business:

CSS Meeting Calendar. It was voted to change the meetings of the CSS to the first Friday of the month at 8:30AM.

Goals for 2012-13. Terry G. shared a list of topics that are of interest to Westport seniors. It was suggested that it would be helpful if members of the CSS attended some of the other groups that meet to discuss these issues. These include library activities, environment issues, health and insurance issues and SWCAA meetings. Further consideration of who will attend which meetings will be discussed at the next meeting.

Page 2

ITN Coastal CT Senior Transportation/ update. Rides continue to increase. There is a need for more volunteer drivers. There is a concern about finances due to the present economic times. A fundraiser is planned.

Baron's South Senior Housing/update A proposal has been selected and presented to Gordon Joseloff. Questions were raised by the Board of Finance. Seniors are encouraged to attend the meeting with RTM Oct 29 at Town Hall.

Citizen Transit Committee. Westport volunteers meet regularly to discuss issues related to community (senior, youth and commuter) needs.

Department Report:

Westport Warm up Advisory Board Meeting. Fund is presently in good shape due to the mild winter last year. Staff is working with oil vendors to arrange a discount and a rebate from Gault Oil Co. Additional fundraising will be done in early December mailing to Westport residents. Energy

audits are required for all heating assistance applicants.

2012 -2013. Heating Assistance program guidelines. Commission voted to approve.

Committee Reports:

The Senior Center Policy and Planning board is planning to update their action plan.

The Friends of the Center are planning a fund raiser in March or April. The Friends are continuing to present well received programs at the Center for Senior Activities.

Next meeting: Friday, November 2 at 8:30AM.

Submitted by Teri Klein