

# **Columbia Commission on Aging**

## **Minutes for 11/19/14 meeting**

**Meeting was called to order by Cathie Rowe**

**Attending:** Cathie Rowe, Paula Cahalan, Millie Ramsey, Marjorie Golden Mossberg, Maggie Ewald, Edith Prague, Bernadette Derring. nonmembers: Jill Livingston and Lyn Buonocore.

**Minutes:** were discussed and moved to accept by Edith Prague, seconded by Maggie Ewald.

Jonathan Luiz, town manager, attended meeting at the request of the committee to give his input on the town following through with a grant request for a van to transport seniors and handicapped for medical appointments. Carmen Vance was unable to attend. Guest speaker, Catherine Palazzi, who was to explain how Andover ran their van program, was unable to attend due to illness

**Discussion:** Paula reviewed number of vans and personnel and methods Bolton, Andover and Lebanon run their van services. From conversations with these towns, the easiest part of the process is getting funding for the van. More difficult to plan out method of scheduling and drivers and insurances. Town would probably have to match grant funds for obtaining the van itself. Committee agreed the biggest problem is that Dial-a-ride is not meeting the needs of the seniors in town to get to doctors appointments outside the Windham district and it is necessary for clients to ride the van for extended times due to routing of the vans to multiple towns.

**Jonathan's input:**

1. There is already Dial-a-ride and a yearly grant for out of district trips. Both of these should be looked at closely and comparative costs studies done.
2. Grant of out of district trips vary yearly. Are state funded. Used for transport of seniors and disabled. Based on amount the town gives to other transport services such as Dial-a-ride. In Columbia priority for the grant is to transport for medical purposes and then surplus is used toward senior outing trips. For 2015-2016

proposed operating expense is \$ 6,931 to WRTD and then a grant for out of district transportation of \$3,243.

3. Jonathan, also felt that a written estimate of hours the van would be operating, drivers needed, method of coordination, costs of maintenance and insurances would need to be researched.
4. Town Planner and the Zoning Board are in the process of working on a 10 year conservation and development plan that would include seniors' transportation needs and housing. They will be sending out a survey in next few months. Before CONA sends out a survey, he would like us to meet with the Town Planner and discuss the needs of the seniors. Also get suggestion as to pertinent questions to be used on the survey that CONA sends out.

**Discussion:** If CONA should send out own survey on senior needs in transportation and include questions on senior housing. If survey should be sent out with town mailing. Jonathan felt the mailing would cost about 500 to 600 dollars and there was money that was in the transportation budget for that mailing or alternative: should survey just be put in Crossroads.

**VOTE:** 6 in favor of sending survey both in Crossroads and mailing and survey would include questions on future senior housing and transport needs. 1 opposing vote.

Paula will prepare Thanksgiving greeting cards to be sent out with Meals on Wheels.

Other points covered: Lyn Robinson, who heads volunteers in the Hospital for Special Care, might be able to give suggestions to Bernadette or CONA on successful methods to recruit volunteers. Tom Nevers at the Chronicle might be able to help us if we needed to put articles in the newspaper for local coverage.

Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING DEC. 17th, 2014

Minutes prepared by Lyn Buonocore  
Submitted by Catherine Rowe

Received: November 25, 2014  
At 3:26 PM  
Attest: Paula Myerth  
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk TC