

## **Columbia Commission on Aging Notes for meeting on 4/22/2015**

**Attending:** Cathie Rowe, Edith Prague, Jill Livingston, Maggie Ewald, Bernadette Derring, Margie Golden-Mossberg, Paula Cahalan, Lyn Buonocore

Meeting called to order by Cathie Rowe at 9:00 AM  
Minutes accepted by Edith Prague, seconded by Paula Cahalan

2 speakers were introduced and presented:

Margaret Smith Hale representing *Nutmeg Senior Rides* explained the purpose of organization, the history and formation of it and how it differs from other transportation groups for elderly.

1. provides for seniors and visually impaired 24/7
2. Serves Bloomfield, East Granby, East Windsor, ,Enfield, Granby, Somers, South Windsor, Suffield, Windsor and Windsor Locks
3. Use mostly volunteer drivers, and supplement with paid drivers.
4. \$40 membership fee. Rate per ride: \$1.50 to \$2 first few miles and then over 15 miles is a flat fee of \$25 each way
5. They use a software program for scheduling that cost \$250 per month

Cathy Palazzi presented how Andover organizes its van operation.

1. Originally vans were part of state DOT. Andover had use of 2 vans but only used them 2 days a week.
2. State sold those to vans to Andover. Last year Andover bought a mini van funded through capitol improvement.
3. Drivers: Must have a CDL or F license to drive large van. Must have a yearly physical. 100% of their pay is allowed in town budget.
4. Town pays for van and driver's insurance, maintenance of vans. The town gets a grant from the state yearly (\$9,600 dollars) which the town must meet with matching funds. Complete budget usually around \$17,500 including state grant.

Cathy has offered to assist members of CONA in pursuing grants for van transport. Discussed possibly Columbia and Andover joining together in an effort to furnish necessary transport.

### **Old Business:**

1. Survey tabulations presented and members each given a copy of the results.
2. \$800 dollars was put back in CONA budget due to the town reimbursing committee for postage spent to mail out the surveys. Money must be used by end of June or will be returned to the town.
3. Paula presented her findings about how other towns get information and notices to towns people especially the seniors and shut ins. Methods in surrounding towns

vary from E-mail, town web sight, drop off locations, and Andover continues to mail to every address. Bolton will mail upon request.

### **New Business:**

Bernadette announced that she had scheduled Cathy Austin, State representative, to present at the next meeting. She, also informed the committee that the new Town Administrator was Natasha Nau.

Cathie Rowe suggested that funds left in the budget could be used to purchase some iPads for the Senior Center and classes would need to be arranged the seniors could understand how to use iPads. This then might encourage more seniors to obtain their own iPads and be able to use them within their homes. Cathie will check with Bernadette to see if the money left in the budget can be spent on iPads.

Cathie Rowe suggested that CONA might function more efficiently if subcommittees were formed. Presently one group could work on investigating procurement of a van for seniors and handicapped, second committee could investigate obtaining some iPads for the Senior Center and setting up classes on use of iPads, third group could work with improving communication to seniors on various events, needs etc.

Chris Ramm will be speaking to CONA at next meeting about his plans for a new housing development he will be building in the near future. Due to having Chris scheduled to speak, Bernadette will call Cathy Austin and see if she can come to a later meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40. Next meeting scheduled for 5/27.

submitted by Lyn Buonocore

Received: May 4, 2015  
At 8:31 AM  
Attest: Paul C. McHugh  
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ASST