

Columbia Commission on Aging

July 24, 2014

Minutes

Attended: Paula Cahalan, , Millie Ramsey, Edith Prague, Maureen Allen, Cathie Rowe and Bernadette Derring.

Minutes: Accepted as is.

Discussion:

VAN/CAR

Discussion centered around the feasibility of getting a van. The Federal Government has a program that gives money towards the purchase of a van. Edith suggested we contact Mike Sanders as an information source. Willimantic bought a Dial-A-Ride van for \$1.00 to be used for small trips. It was suggested that we contact the Board of Selectman for feasibility for insurance. Hebron gets a grant which gives them money for a dispatcher and driver. They purchased an electric car through a grant. The grant paid half and the town paid half.

The question then became would we need a van or would a car be more appropriate.

In past town history, the cost to the town was the issue for not supporting it. The last time this was brought up was five years ago.

Other questions that were raised were: Who would be the dispatcher? Are there volunteer programs available? Also discussed were to perhaps lease a van/car for a trial period.

There is a need according to Bernadette. There are at least five people in town that would use it on a daily basis.

Another avenue discussed was the possibility of asking Gates to donate a vehicle, with advertising for their business on the side. Bernadette will contact them.

RESPITE CARE

Edith was a wealth of information for us. She suggested contacting Cindy Grant at the state level. She thought there is a program that offers 30 days of help to families. There is also a Federal Program called the Family Care giver Program. Edith gave Bernadette phone numbers to contact about gaining more information for us. She also suggested we contact the Department on Aging for a list of their services and programs.

It was also suggested that there is an information center created at the Senior Center that would have information on available services.

MISSION STATEMENT

It was suggested that we use the Darien Senior Center Statement as a model for our own.

MAGNETS

Bernadette will call the Fire Department/Starkel about the medical alert magnets. If they come in, they would be distributed at the Lions Chicken BBQ. And the town dump.

HOUSE NUMBERS

Green reflective house numbers are available and the form is in the Gem Newsletter.

Group Home in Columbia?

Millie raised awareness that there is a home for sale in Columbia, with an elevator that might be appropriate for a senior residential facility. She will call the Card Home to find out how that facility functions.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Rowe

Received: October 30, 2014
At 4:32 PM
Attest: Paul C. McBeth
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ASST
TC