

COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON AGING  
Minutes for 8/26/2015

ATTENDING: Cathy Rowe (chairwoman), Paula Cahalan, Jill Livingston, Lyn Buonocore and one guest observer.

Meeting called to order at 9 AM.

Last meeting minutes read and accepted by Paula Cahalan, seconded by Lyn Buonocore.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Cathy Rowe reported that there have been some questions about the 2 I pads which CONA purchased to loan to shut ins and if they could only be loaned out to shut-ins. Resolution: continue for 1 more month to loan the I pads to shut-ins and if the I pads were not loaned out continuously, start loaning to the general Columbia senior population.
2. Discussion about classes on use of I pads possibly taught by someone within the Senior Center who is proficient with instruction in the use of I Pads, or investigate if either AARP, town library, or Apple will teach a short computer program.
3. Jill Livingston presented information on the findings from the sub committee which is working on the feasibility of obtaining a van for Columbia.
4. Lyn Buonocore reported that she had followed up in talking to Scott Haddad about the Volunteer Fire Department paying for magnets for refrigerators that would hold medical histories if a person had to be taken by ambulance to a hospital. The fire department felt the alerts were too expensive for the number required. CONA members discussed possibly talking to the Lions Club and sharing the expense.

**GUEST SPEAKER;**

Cathy Osten, state senator, was a guest and spoke to the committee on grants that are available and methods to obtain grants. Much of the discussion centered around funding for a transport van for the town.

1. Cathy suggested the 5310 grant. The grant gives up to about \$16,00. Grant supplies about 2/3 of the cost of van and town must supply the other 1/3. Grant application must be started by January and completed by March.
2. She lives in Sprague and used Sprague as an example of a small town ( pop. of 3,000) that was able to obtain funds for it's van and

- insurances. Sprague had a town grant writer. Sprague receives about 8,800 dollars a year toward upkeep of town van
3. She discussed grants that local towns ( Ledyard, Lebanon, Lisbon, and Montville) have gotten for Senior Housing and general upgrades.
  4. Columbia recently received a grant of 564,000 to increase the library building.
  5. She stressed the importance of having the Columbia residences aware of the need for it's own van. She discussed methods in which this could be accomplished; Have CONA members meet with the selectmen about transportation needs, possibly talk on a local Charter station about the need, have an information luncheon at the Senior Center.
  6. Cathy Rowe will call selectmen to arrange a time we could meet with them.

Meeting Adjourned at 10;10  
Next meeting: Sept. 23, 2015

Notes submitted by Lyn Buonocore

Received: September 15, 2015  
At 12:03 PM  
Attest: Paul M. Math  
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ASST  
TC