

Columbia Commission on Aging

September 24, 2014

Minutes

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

Minutes: Millie moved to accept, Paula seconded. Minutes approved.

Discussion: Respite Care Programs

Discussion about programs in the area that are available for Respite Care included the following:

Respite for caregivers for Alzheimer patients. It offers 30 days of help and details are offered on the State Website on Home Care information.

Social Services also has a program. The cost is 7% of the home care fee. Kathy Bruni is in charge of the program and can be reached at 860 424-5053.

Lin Robinson runs the volunteer program for Windham Hospital and could also be a source for further information.

Other organizations that offer respite services are the VNA, Compassionate Care in Tolland, Compassionate Homemakers has done information sessions at the Senior Center. St. Joseph's Living Center also did a program. Hospice Care can provide Services. Linda Reynolds, the cook for the Beckish Senior Center can also be hired in town. Other private local providers that are certified are Brook and Jennifer Ledwith.

Circuit Breaker Program

The Circuit Breaker program is accessed through the Town Assessors Office.

Eligibility requirements are:

1. 65 years old or older
2. Income of no more than \$41,500.
3. Credit amount ranges from \$150.00-\$500.00
4. Deadlines for applications are February 1st and May 1st

5. Renters may also be eligible
6. People with total disability are also eligible.

Discussion ensued about how this information is publicized. The information is in the Crossroads publication twice a year. Currently there are 60 homeowners and 12 renters involved.

Other Discussion

Maggie suggested that Beth Caldwell has information for Elder Care that could be put into a folder and will check on this.

Dial-a-ride information that was discussed:

The cost to the town (\$6,931) 2013/14 and to individuals that use the service out of the region (\$25.00) plus tip per trip. The "in region" area is Dayville, Killingly, Plainfield, Windham, Ashford, Columbia and Chaplin.

Free phones:

Free cell phones are available from 2 companies based on financial need. If already eligible for energy assistance, you are already approved. The program allows 250 minutes of free minutes or texts.

Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, our November meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 19th.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Rowe

Received: October 30, 2014
At 4:36 PM
Attest: Paul McHath
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ^{ASST} TC