

COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON AGING  
Minutes for 2/28/2018

Meeting called to Order at 9:00 AM

ATTENDING: Catherine Rowe (Chairwoman) Jill Livingston, Lyn Buonocore, Paula Cahalan and Bernadette Derring (Senior Center Director).

Minutes from meeting on 1/24/18 read and accepted by a motion from Paula Cahalan and seconded by Jill Livingston.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bernadette Update:

- New CONA budget request of \$800.00, an increase of \$200.00 from the previous yr.
- Van Drivers have new hours that will increase their present hours by 3 hrs/wk
- Dispatch hours have increased from 12 to 20 hrs/wk
- CONA budget has been prepared by Bernadette with input from Cathy
- Van is booked solid for transport thru the end of March 2018. Was used for Flower Show trip and will use for trip to AAC in March.
- Program to assist “Shut-Ins” during inclement weather. Checking on auto-calls thru town emergency system, a phone tree and a question to those in need if they would prefer a phone call or a check-in. Bernadette presently calls these folks 3x/day during inclement weather.
- Continued distribution of pamphlets and reminders to all who enter the senior center regarding Flu/Pneumonia precautions.
- Housing – Per Cathy Rowe’s conversation with First Selectman Steve Everett, there is no existing affordable housing program to include Veterans and seniors on the same campus. Question of possible building site/property in Columbia that may be utilized for such a program. Steve Everett to contact our State Representative Joe Courtney, regarding possible funds/grants for such a program. Steve Everett and State Senator, Cathy Osten to attend next CONA meeting. Request that CONA members submit questions concerning this housing program. Per Cathy Rowe, developing a pilot program is a focus for Joe Courtney at this time.
- Will table discussion on fund raiser to supplement food bank or heat and energy programs for a future date

NEW BUSINESS:

- Possible “Leasing” of an economical vehicle for medical appointments for seniors/disabled adults. Will need to gather statistics on present van usage.
- Continuation of discussion on housing for Seniors/Veterans at the next CONA meeting to include CONA Members, Senior Center Director Bernadette Derring, Town Manager Mark Walter, Town Selectman Steve Everett, President of Columbia Senior Organization Sharon Smith and State Senator Cathy Osten.

Motion to adjourn at 10:01 A.M. made by Lyn Buonocore, seconded by Paula Cahalan

Next meeting of Columbia Commission on Aging scheduled for 3/28/18.

Minutes submitted by Jill Livingston