

COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON AGING  
Minutes for 1/24/2018

Meeting called to Order at 9:04 AM

ATTENDING: Jill Livingston, Lyn Buonocore, Maggie Ewald, Millie Ramsey, Paula Cahalan and Bernadette Derring.

Minutes from meeting on 12/27/17 read and accepted by a motion from Maggie Ewald and seconded by Paula Cahalan.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bernadette Update:

- She reviewed days of the week the Columbia Senior Van is scheduled to be in service; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Local churches have been requested by Bernadette to announce the van is available for appointments etc. Calls requesting scheduled van rides in February have begun. Bernadette has, also, scheduled shopping trips and an outing to a UCONN basketball game. Unfortunately the van driver will be out for a short period of time due to flu precautions and the back up driver presently has other commitments within the town which prevents her from taking over the driving for this week and next. Bernadette expects the van to be back to full availability within next 2 weeks.
- Discussion about methods to keep the flu from being spread between participants in activities at the Senior Center. Maggie suggested a sign hung requesting if a person has flu like symptoms, not to participate. Bernadette and other Senior Center workers and volunteers are already using antibacterial wipes on surfaces and hand sanitizers.
- CONA budget has been prepared by Bernadette with input from Cathy Rowe-DiGiovanni. CONA requested \$600.
- All staff associated with the Beckish Senior Center have been CPR certified through a class on 1/19/18.
- Bernadette spoke of future activities and classes and projected plans and goals for the Senior Center. She is very enthused about the amount of participation there has been in the various activities and classes.

Information by Maggie Ewald regarding Transportation grants from the State:

- Maggie had checked into regional grants that might be available to increase public transportation within our general region especially linking up with towns along the Rt. 66 corridor. However, she said most of these grants have already been awarded and with Connecticut's present budget cuts, the grants are not available. Discussion followed that there is already in place a bus service from Middletown down to the shoreline and possibly another line could be added from Windham area along Rt. 66 to Portland.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

CONA members discussed future projects the committee could work towards besides affordable housing in Columbia which will continue to be a long term goal of the committee. Suggestions were;

- Fund raiser to supplement food bank or heat and energy programs
- Program to assist shut ins and impaired to get groceries and needed supplies, especially before winter storms.
- Volunteer program to have regular visits to shut ins if a person requests it.

Motion to adjourn at 10:05 A.M. made by Lyn Buonocore, seconded by Maggie Ewald.

Next meeting of Columbia Commission on Aging scheduled for 2/28/18.

Minutes submitted by Lyn Buonocore