Town of Wales

Council on Aging

Date: 07 Feb 2019 Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Wales Senior Center

Agenda:

Call to Order at 1:00 PM by Pepper Wheeler, Chair

In Attendance:

Patricia (Pepper) Wheeler, Chair

Robert Herbert, Vice Chair

Jean Herbert, Secretary

Brian Hartling, Member, Van Driver

Cheri Fisher- Interim Director Senior Center

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the 10 Jan 2019 meeting were distributed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Brian Hartling, seconded by Cheri Fisher and approved by voice vote.

Old Business:

1. Review of Senior Center January Activities – Bingo Prizes - Bingo was held on Jan 5th and 7 people attended. A representative from Ann Gobi’s office was present. Cheri took a few pictures and posted them on Facebook. She is also looking to get permission from other seniors in order to post pictures of Senior Center activities. Another Bingo prize was donated on the 7th.
2. Update of Senior Center Internet Access - The internet still needs to be updated for the Senior Center. Cheri had Tantasqua at the Center but was unaware of the issue. A secure, password protected, Wi-Fi network is required. Cheri will try and get this updated. The COA feels that Cheri should be an Admin for the Senior Center computer system and internet.
3. Charge for Van Usage - The COA wants to ask the BOS if they would support a nominal charge for using the Senior Center Van to come back and forth to the Senior Center. Shopping Trips and Medical already pay (donation) for usage, Cheri will ask the BOS. This charge would be help defray expenses/maintenance costs. The COA would like to see a monthly summary of Van usage. Cheri believes that it can be generated from the Senior Center Software program.
4. Van Usage/Maintenance Items – Pepper mentioned that the van step is rusted and needs to be painted. Brian stated that he will paint it as soon as the weather improves.
5. Grants/Programs to Assist Seniors - Jean presented a draft of ideas for upcoming grants on issues that have an impact on seniors such as health, safety, well-being, and overall quality of life. One such item is the battery back-up light bulbs. A demonstration of the light bulbs could be presented, and the light bulbs given as prizes for Bingo, and/or as a free raffle prize. The demonstration is tentatively planned for March.

New Business:

1. Code of Conduct on Van – There needs to be an update of the Van rules and Code of Conduct to address some issues that have occurred on the Van recently. This will be discussed at a later meeting. Brian should not be the enforcer for the rules. He should inform Senior Center Director of any issues.
2. Upcoming Events for the Senior Center – A freshly prepared lunch continues to be served on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A breakfast will be held on March 13th. Exercise class is Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1030. Cheri stated that she will be on vacation from March 29 to April 12. Elaine will cover for her during that time so the Senior Center will be open during those days. To increase interest and participation in upcoming events, Cheri wants to ask the BOS for the option to solicit advertisements for the Newsletter, so more Newsletters can be sent out. This could help to defray the expenses of printing and mailing. We are currently sending out about 200 Newsletters and there are over 400 seniors. Cheri is comparing the current mailing list with the list from the Town. We could also use emails to get the word out, if the resident Seniors have no objection.

A meet and greet with the COA is planned for 14th of March. This is the date of the St Patrick’s Day lunch. Cheri has planned to move some furniture around in the main room. She plans on creating a TV corner with carpet and chairs. Rob and Jean volunteered to help do the rearranging.

1. Discuss Financial/Budget Issues – Options to pay for small expenses that come up were discussed. Emergency lights were fixed by Cheri to comply with requirements of the building inspector. He was going to shut down the Senior Center. Building maintenance and safety will be discussed with the BOS.
2. Status Update for Senior Center Director Position – As of this meeting date, no status had been updated.
3. Preparation of COA Report for Wales Annual Town Report - A draft of the input for the Town Meeting booklet will be written by Rob and Jean and the draft provided to Pepper and Cheri for comment. The report is due by the 15th of February.
4. Discuss any Issues at the Senior Center - Usage of the Senior Center building for Town activities was discussed. In 2018, the COA had decided that usage of the Senior Center for personal activities should not be allowed. Some members thought that this would include town activities such as meetings. It was decided to go to the BOS for clarification on use of the building. Brian should not be asked to deliver meals. The BOS will be asked for input on the possibility of delivering meals to Seniors that cannot get to the Senior Center. The liability and safety for food handling needs to be considered. Cheri needs to get the CORI check and insurance information for Van driver position. She will check with the BOS to see what they have.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM