

Commission for Senior Services Regular Meeting Minutes September 20, 2021

Remote Meeting

Attendance: Bob Fox, Doris Levinson, Diane Kleros, Merle Spiegel, and Virginia Ferrari, All members participated remotely.

Guests: Claudia Copeland and Sarah Adair

Staff: Sue Pfister, Elaine Daignault, Kristen Witt, and Holly Betts

Introduction of attendees and prospective members.

Sue Pfister, WCSA:

COVID update: The WCSA and Aspetuck Health District (formerly the WWHD) held a booster shot clinic for those folks who are immunocompromised on September 10. Third shot clinics will be coordinated now that they were just approved for those 65+. All registrations will be handled through the VAMS website. DHS staff will work closely with the public health nurses to assist those home-bound residents in need of any vaccinations.

WCSA Update:

Will be hosting a flu vaccination clinic on October 21st.

The amended mask mandate permits folks to remove their masks in the fitness center if they are comfortable, fully vaccinated, and can maintain at least 6 ft social distancing at all times. This has been a welcomed amendment for some seniors who were finding it difficult to work-out with a mask on.

Participants are cooperating with all mask guidelines. There has been a slight uptick in in-house participation which is great.

There has been a notable increase in registration for the next semester, October – December 2021.

Kristen Witt: Renters Rebate ending next week. So far have served 82 households with rebates totaling over \$42,000.00.

Energy Assistance will begin October 1. Mailing applications to 222 qualified families. S. Pfister will publicize in the WCSA's weekly Constant Contact.

Announced:

There will be a Fall Prevention program at the WCSA on Wednesday September 22nd from 11:00 – Noon presented by a physical therapist from Visiting Nurse & Hospice. Please register at MyActiveCenter or by calling the WCSA at 203.341.5099.

Public Shred Day will be held at the Greens Farms train station on Saturday Sept 25th from 9 am - noon. The cost is \$5.00/car; maximum 8 paper bags or 3 boxes (12" x 18".)

The Westport Police Department will host a National Drug Take Back Day at the WCSA on Saturday October 23rd from 10 am – 2pm. Prescription and non-prescription drugs can be discarded. It was also noted that a drug take back box is always available in the lobby at the Westport Police Department.

Westport Detective Erin Shaw, and Assistant US Attorney, Heather Cherry will present on Scams and Fraud Protection on Oct 15th at 10:30 am. Please call the WCSA at 203.341.5099 to attend.

Diane K. – Expressed concerns that she has friends at that live in a WHA unit and are having issues connecting with WHA staff regarding mold/bed bugs.
WWHD called, referred them back to WHA.

Suggestion to have Carol Martin join a future meeting to address housing questions and to discuss the various WHA complexes, enrollment, rent structure, etc.

Virginia F. – Has friends with transportation issues. Elaine explained differences between the Westport public transportation options through Norwalk Transit – Coastal Link, Door to Door, Wheels to You.

Suggestion to have Peter Gold, New Transit Director meet with commission in the near future.

Claudia C. – Requested help with voters to have transportation to the polls. Was mentioned that Registrar of Voters assisted with transportation at last election.

Announced that a formal Appointment of commissioners will be conducted by First Selectman, Mr. Jim Marpe. Asked all participants to confirm their willingness to be on committee and availability to attend monthly meetings.

Merle Spiegel volunteered to be Secretary which was noted.

The next meeting date is: Monday, October 18, 2021 at 10:00 am.

Merle Spiegel/Diane Kleros approved meeting to be adjourned.