TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

*Department of Elderly & Social Services*

Shepardson Community Center

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 20th, 2024

Middlebury Senior Center

9:30 A.M.

Members Present: Jean Hansen, Ann Zimkus, Nancy Mastroianni, Maryann Barra, Ann Spierto, Judy Mirrer

JoAnn Cappelletti, Municipal Agent, Senior Center and Social Services Director

Members Absent: Nancy Pun

The meeting was called to order by Judy at 9:40 a.m.

Review and approval of Minutes for November 21st, 2023.

A motion to approve the minutes of November 21st, 2023 was made by Jean Hansen and seconded by Maryann Barra.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Balance on hand is $150.

**Chairman’s Report:**

No new information to be reported.

**Municipal Agent Report**

**Senior Center**

**Transportation:**

GWTD still running Thursday from 9 to 3:45 for the Town of Middlebury. Joann met with the new administration at GWTD and information books have been printed. They will be available online; as well as are available for ordering.

The Senior Center bus hours are from 8:30 to 2:00 P.M.; Monday through Friday. Thursday is still reserved with GWTD and our senior bus.

The grant application process is now open. Joann has started the application for a new Senior Bus. This will take approx. 2 years; in the mean time we will continue to use the two buses we currently have.

**Benefit Programs:**

Energy Assistance applications will be taken until May 31st, 2024.

Operation Fuel will officially close March 15th. As of today’s, meeting they have only approved up to January 16th applications. They are very behind on approving applications.

Middlebury has approximately 20 outstanding applications waiting for approval.

The Middlebury Food Bank received donations from The Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department & Ladies Auxiliary on February 11th.

There was an increase in applications for the Middlebury Emergency Fund with approximately 40 applications submitted from December through February.

**New Business:**

Middlebury Senior Center has received a grant from the ARPA funds in the amount of $27,000 for updated shades; tables & chairs; new monitor & smart televisions.

The Senior Center is in the process of applying for another grant for updated repairs & new appliances for the kitchen. Grant application is due by March 6th, 2024.

Tribury Rotary donated $1000 to the Middlebury Social Services for Christmas Gift Baskets to be gifted to elderly & homebound seniors in town. They are working with the Senior Center for future outreach programs, as well as fundraising.

AARP Safe Drive Course scheduled for March 25th, 2024.

The Senior Center has a new volunteer, Jenny, to assist with our weekly Congregate Lunch program on Tuesdays. She will prepare & serve those who dine-in; as well as pack lunch to go for those who wish to take it home.

The Lutheran Home will be sponsoring a Lunch & Learn in March with ION Bank as the education speaker.

The Knights of Columbus will host their annual St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef dinner at the Shepardson Community Building. Cost will be $20.

**Old Business:**

There will be no AARP Tax Help for the 2024 season at the Middlebury Senior Center. Ralph Barra has offered to help those seniors he had previously helped by doing their taxes this year as well. He will be focused only on Middlebury low income seniors; and referring all others to the Woodbury Senior Center or Howard Whittemore Library in Naugatuck.

“Are you there?” as been and will continue to be on hold until another program can be implemented in its stead. Naugatuck has a different program that has been doing well for their town. More research needs to be done on this program to see if it will be a fit for Middlebury.

**Public Questions/Comments:**

Maryann made a comment about finding several resources for seniors who are unable to shovel their driveways/walkways. Having an available resource for them, that are reasonably priced, would benefit these residents greatly.

Joann advised her to look into that, as it is the Commissions role to address senior issues such as this.

Ann Zimkus had mentioned an assistance program called Go-Go-Grandparent. This pairs seniors who need transportation with able volunteers. A seminar or talk at Woodside was brought up and she was willing to look into setting that up.

The next Commission on Aging meeting scheduled for April 16th, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn at 10:46 a.m. was made by Nancy Mastroianni, seconded by Jean Hansen and approved.