Senior Council Minutes  
October 25, 2021

Present: Polly Bijur, Kate Washton, Miriam Budin, Anne Russak, Paula Scheiber, Carolyn Reiss, Marilyn Meese, Sandy Selikson

Anne Russak let us know that Cynthia Alligood has been in the hospital; she may be home now. We’re all wishing her the best and will be in touch.

1. Anne reported that the Community Center is moving toward reopening and hopes to do so after the November elections are over. Senior activities outdoors have continued. She was involved in providing assistance to several seniors who were experiencing substantial problems. Anne said that she had reached out to the Village Building Inspector to see if he has a list of professionals who might help with assistance for seniors.

2. Pam Knell reported that Climate Smart Communities Task Force has added some new members. We’re going to talk about issues we might bring up to the Climate Smart Communities that relate to seniors and the climate at a future meeting.

3. Marilynn Meese said the Fall Fest on November 16 was very successful and Sandy Selikson said she has planted a pollinator garden. We will discuss any Senior specific activities or outreach to the Pollinator Pathways Project at a future meeting.

4. Polly Bijur and Kate Washton met with the Village Manager and the magnet and the survey can go out as a separate mailing rather than as inserts in the calendar. Kate said the board of elections has contact information with ages but Anne said she’s worked with this in the past and it is inaccurate. Raf said he has a list of about 1800 seniors. Changes to the magnet need to be made including omitting the names that go with certain jobs, deleting Hastings Taxi and figuring out how to include FISH. Anne said that it might be listed with Senior Outreach: Senior Outreach – FISH. She said that she fields
many calls about rides and passes that information to Nancy Balaban. When the changes are made Carolyn will reach out to Eddie to work on the final version.
5. Several committee members piloted the survey with older residents. These pilots resulted in the need to clarify the survey. More questions about the phrasing and the timing of the survey came up. We will continue working on it and send out another draft. The survey discussion will continue at the next meeting. Suggestions were made as to how to include information about the Senior Citizen News Email List on the magnet or the survey. We are considering waiting until the spring to do the survey as it is likely we will need to do some person-to-person outreach (e.g., tables at Foodtown, the Farmer’s Market, the Community Center). If we do that, we can distribute information about the Senior Citizen News Email list, the RUOK list, and the Senior Council. When the final changes are made on the survey we will ask Eddie to work on the final version.
6. Booster shots for the Covid 19 Vaccine are available now to people 65+ and are available at Greenleaf in the evenings; appointments best, some walk-ins possible also at the Yonkers Armory, the County Center, CVS in Ardsley. We talked about publicizing the availability of boosters in the senior citizen news email list. Raf and Anne said they would address this after the election and the lists are focusing on the election for the next two weeks.
7. Polly is interested in starting a group for seniors who are considering or are in the early stages of retirement.
8. Help for seniors with odd jobs, either via professionals or volunteers continues to be a topic for discussion. Issues of liability need to be discussed with the Village attorney. Kate discussed this issue with the Cape Cod Associates. Groups to make contact with as possible resources are the Rivertowns Rotary, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, maid services.
9. The Community Center is holding a Halloween event. Anne asked if the Senior Council would donate candy. The dropoff is at the Community Center.