Senior Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2017
76 South Orange Avenue
Conference Room 2

Attendance: Alyssa Aronson, Larry Aronson, Peg Cinberg, Sam Convissor, Scott Egelberg, Shirley Gordon, Bill Graves, Sandy Lublin, Tonia Moore, Marie Somers

1. Meeting Called to order at 6:45 pm

2. Minutes of August 15, 2017 meeting approved. Tonia would like the minutes sent out at least a day before the meeting in the future. Minutes should be sent to Karen Hilton and Sheena Collum. Scott will continue to post the minutes on-line. However, he says he "is very forgetful." Please send them to segelberg@southorgange.org with the subject line reading:_POST THESE minutes. There is a South Orange Senior Citizen Advisory Committee website on the town website. There was discussion about several problems with the links there.

3. Meals on Wheels: SAGE Elder Care gave Cathy Rowe a quote for $8 day for Meals on Wheels. Supplying 40 people & an administrator is $50,000/year. Cathy will contact Rent Party in an attempt to raise funds. Their Friday social events go to charities, excluding the cost of a band. Possibly these could take place once a month at the Woodlands. We asked for more information. Cathy Rowe is also dealing with the local food pantries: Our Lady of Sorrows, Oheb Shalom, and St. Joseph's.

4. SOS is running a Volunteer Fair at the Woodlands on January 28, 2018 in the afternoon. There will be booths of local community organizations that need volunteers. This will be open to all, age-friendly.

5. SOS hosted a Healthy Cooking Event at South Mountain Rehabilitation last month. There were about 60 attendees. Whole Foods paid for the ingredients, the center fronted the other costs. Bus service was provided from 219 South Orange Avenue and 110 Vose Avenue. There was a professional cook, Nandini Anant, who prepared food with the audience's assistance. The event was very successful.

6. There will be a Repair Café at the Morrow Church on South Ridgewood Avenue on October 21, 2017 between 2-5 pm. They are looking for volunteers to work with those needing repairs, specifically a seamstress and computer mavens are needed. Contact Bill at williamgraves5632@hotmail.com So far, they have a jeweler, a carpenter, and an electrician. They are modelling this after the Repair Café in Warwick Valley. (Shirley moved from there to South Orange.) On September 21, 2017 at noon people are invited to work on making signs for the event. They need baked goods so that people can relax there. This is expected to be very successful – already they have a number of people interested. Marie will post information about the Repair Café on Sheena Collum's Facebook page, the South Orange Facebook page and SOS's Facebook page.

7. The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee will be at Newcomer's Day at the South Orange Public Library. If any are interested, they should contact Cathy Rowe at: SOMA2towns@gmail.com.

8. There was discussion about attendance rule for South Orange Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee. Currently, there are no rules. It was suggested that committee members should not be allowed to miss 3 meetings over the course of a year. Sam suggested those missed meetings should run consecutively. Shirley commented the meetings are largely project-driven and that meeting attendance should not be a requirement. Larry added that we have no obligation to update new members. Sam said that our informality has a lot of things to be said for it. Larry pointed out that people are here because they want to be – this is a choice. The benefits and rewards make it worthwhile for us.

9. There were brief discussions about:
   a. How can to the Grotta grant become self-sustaining?
   b. How has the grant money been spent so far?
   c. Could Recreation Department funds be used for this?
   d. How are Chatham-Madison using their grant money? How are they working with Go-Go Grandparent? Larry said he will look into this.
   e. Is transportation in South Orange improving? General agreement is that it is, the jitneys are being used in both towns by seniors. Cathy Rowe has hosted transportation meetings.
   f. Is it wise of Chatham-Madison to use their grant money to pay for transportation? Should they have invited mass participation as SOMA did?

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm