Minutes
11-21-17
The meeting began at 6:35pm.

Present: Tonia Moore, Larry Aronson, Peg Cinberg, Shirley Gordon, William Graves, Sandy Lublin, Cathy Rowe, Nan Samons

Absent: Alba Abbate, Alyssa Aronson, Michael Auer (sent regrets), Lenore Berkman, Harold Colton-Max, Sam Convissor (sent regrets), Scott Egelberg, Frank Franzonia, Natalie Hamilton, Karen Hartshorn-Hilton, Jacqueline Herships, Marie Somers

Minutes from 10-17-17 approved and will be posted.

Transportation:

Can people get together who live in apartment buildings get together and share rides with Uber or Lyft or GoGo Grandparent?
Larry points out that only one phone can use Uber until the first ride is completed; then a second phone call could be made
Could concierges make calls?
Larry looked this up and there is an attachment to these notes

SOMA Grant:
$15000 for transportation for next year from SOMA
$6000 left over from this year

Cathy Rowe

SOMA seeks volunteers after school to reach out to seniors to walk home with the kids.
A walking home from school or bus initiative

Howard Levison is a trustee interested in this.
Marshall School is reaching out to seniors to volunteer with this and other programs at the school

Ride for life and Safe Routes for School are programs working on this.

Cathy Rowe reported on a transportation summit in May of 2018.

NJTIPS

Came through with a package for SOMA; however the management team was not happy with it and answered them in the negative.

There is a $9000 charge for a professional study viewing transportation options in the two towns

Cathy Rowe is going back to the management team with our suggestions to ask for a consultant to study how the jitneys are used/usage/and a plan to coordinate the two towns' jitneys.
This service needs advertising.

How many people use the jitneys? South Orange needs to do this; Maplewood has estimates for their jitney use. No one was selected to follow through on this.
We need to study their use and what changes we would like/or need to make in current service.

Cathy Rowe will write Mila Jasey and give her a heads up about about improving the current transportation system in SOMA.

Larry Aronson will work with Transportation with the Management Committee

Repair Café

This was a very successful event: 41 people came with items to be serviced; with 63 items.
Everyone had a good time.
People were engaged in the process of repair.
One drove from Cherry Hill to get a jewelry repair.
We should host another repair café within six months.

Housing:

Harold reported (in abstentia) tht the 12 new apartments at 110 Vose will be ready by Dec 15th 2017.
There will be a housing summit in the fall of 208. The topics under consideration are: the current rules in both towns, what should be the rules, home share, Seton Hall Housing Department, can seniors rent rooms (this is very controversial (town/gown issues)

Clarification: According to NJ law a person 65 or older can rent to one person; in SO a senior can rent to three people.

Food:

Cathy Rowe finally got a response from Chrill Care and learned people can go individually to them; no one needs to go through the state.

Food Insecurity should be a state political effort.

Rent Party (Chris Dixon is the head) is providing food starting in December to Bnai Brith building. They have already sent out information to 219 SOA

Lots of agencies do distribute food, but there needs to be a coordination between the various food banks and others (like Rent Party).

Resource Gide:

This is Cathy Rowe's initiative.

Gramatan Village

200 membership organizations and have a staff.
Cathy and Nan went there

Medicare:

It is now open enrollment time.

Jackie Herships

Has had health problems and is in Inglemoor; she will be coming home this Saturday.
She broke her right shoulder and she is right handed.
She lives on Roland Avenue; we need to email and ask about her
Karen Hilton is cooking a meal for her

Larry pointed out that Medicare covers 21 days in rehab.

Meeting adjourned.