

Commission on Aging, Brookfield, CT
Regular Monthly Meeting January 8, 2014

Carol Howe called the meeting to order at 12:05.

Present: Emily McPadden, Carol Howe, Marilyn Wilkes, Rich Groski, Ellen Melville

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

SENIOR CENTER / SOCIAL SERVICES

Beth Hoolehan, Senior and Social Services Program Coordinator, is leaving her position In January due to a job transfer. Beth's job description was posted in November. Currently the Center is understaffed at a time when those participating in programs has risen from 183 in 2008 to 382 in 2013. Until a replacement is found, Ellen will temporarily depend on volunteers. The Center is a bit quieter in the winter, but regular basic classes continue to be well attended. Income tax preparation begins Friday, February 7th; appointments can be made beginning January 17th. Ellen reports there has been no increase in the budget.

Reporting for Jeanette, Ellen told the Commissioners more than forty families benefited from donors contributing to Thanksgiving Baskets. The Stocking Stuffer Program, new this year, was most successful. The goal to give families some dignity and independence allowed them to shop for their children. Gift cards were very popular and most appreciated. Use of the Food Pantry is about what it has been in previous years with an increase in single mothers who qualify.

BROOKS QUARRY

Richard Sturdevant has recently been appointed to the Housing Authority. Rich Groski is encouraging residents to attend monthly get togethers at the Community Center. In November a pasta dinner was served, for December the Rotary Club helped plan a pizza party and in January Bagels with the Board is planned. These are intended to open communication and bring about a sense of community. New applications are being accepted. As residents move out, upgrades are being made to the units. In the planning stages are walk in tubs and replacement of the flooring. On March 1 rents will be determined based on a resident's complete financial picture. It was suggested that a tax person visit the Quarry to help residents with their 1040 and medical expenses.

FISH

In order to be consistent, the Commissioners decided when schools are released early, due to bad weather, there would be no rides given in order to ensure the safety of the drivers as well as the clients. We continue to advertise for new drivers and will reach out to Robin Montgomery and the Lions Club. It was suggested that in a condo complex a porch light be left on to assist drivers trying to locate a unit.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10.

The next COA meeting is scheduled for February 5. At that meeting we will discuss a Senior Resource Guide for Brookfield.

Meeting notes submitted by Carol Howe