



TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging
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Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow

Colchester Commission on Aging Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2008 – Colchester Senior Center

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

Nancy A. Bray

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COLCHESTER, CT
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MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jean Stawicki, Vice Chairman Ann Smyk, Bernie Erickson, Clara Erickson, Sue Maikshilo, Barbara Warden, Betty Ann Oppelt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sally Carbone, Bill Wagner

OTHERS PRESENT: Priscilla Clesowich

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.
- 2. Minutes:** Jean Stawicki asked to amend the October minutes to reflect that the United Community and Family Services (UC&FS) currently have a facility in Colchester on Upton Road that offers psychiatric services. Sue Maikshilo motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of 10/14/08 with the correction. Bernie Erickson seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 3. Financial Report:** Bernie Erickson reported that the senior center collected \$246.00 from transportation in October. \$56.00 of that was from two out-of-town trips to Vernon and Marlborough. BettyAnn Oppelt motioned to accept the Financial Report. Barbara Warden seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** No items were reported.
- 5. Senior Center Director's Report:** Priscilla Clesowich reported that the Christmas luncheon will be on December 19th. She has asked the Golden Glow to sing. Pizza will be served at noon. She will need a head count of those planning to attend.

The Christmas bazaar and tag sale will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 9 am until 1 pm. The TV room is full of donations for the tag sale. Seniors will be able to make purchases on Friday.

The Wii bowling team won the regional tournament and are going to the states this coming Friday. The senior center is receiving another Wii game package from Health Net for winning the tournament. Priscilla is looking into TV costs

in the hopes of purchasing another so people can play Wii on one and the other TV can be used for regular TV viewing.

Another ping pong table was donated to the center. Priscilla is hoping more people will take advantage of this program.

On November 18th at noon, Priscilla and Donna are hosting a TVCCA Thanksgiving meal. The cost is \$7.00.

It was brought to the attention of the Commission that a senior is using their own personal vehicle to do errands for the senior center. There was discussion regarding this and it was decided that a staff member should be the one to do any errands involving driving on behalf of the center.

Priscilla questioned whether the Commission would like to have input on decisions that need to be made before the new director starts. All agreed that she and Donna should do what they think is best.

Clara Erickson brought a concern up regarding the position that Moe holds through Easter Seals. They have announced that her term is ending effective March 2009. Clara related how important Moe's job is to the seniors and questioned using the \$800 that they donate to Easter Seals to support the continuation of her work. Moe has written a letter to Linda Hodge to make her aware of the situation. Priscilla added that the town has already told all department heads to start looking in each of their budgets to see where they can tighten spending for the upcoming year.

Clara Erickson motioned to accept the Senior Center Director's Report. BettyAnn Oppelt seconded. All other members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Old Business:

A. Update on Hiring of New Director: Clara Erickson reported that the new director has been hired and will start on December 15th. She said they interviewed 12 out of 50 applicants and called 3 back for second interviews. Her name is Patty White and she has already met all the staff. Jean Stawicki thanked Clara for all the time and hard work she put into this process.

B. Accreditation Process – How to Proceed: Jean Stawicki reported that she checked with Cathy Russi and the guidebook for accreditation had not been purchased. She spoke with John Malsbenden from the Board of Selectmen who said he would not approve the expenditure, however she found a Director of a nearby senior center which is accredited, that would share his copy. Jean stated that there is no sense in applying at this time because of the state of the building that houses the center, but she feels it is important to try to do what they can to prepare themselves for the application process.

7. New Business:

A. How to Best Serve our Seniors: Jean Stawicki read the mission statement for the Commission on Aging from the town's annual report. She stated that the Commission could track the State of Connecticut Commission on Aging legislation that is currently being considered. This could give the Colchester Commission on Aging a guideline as to what else they can be looking into. She proposed providing additional outreach to the community seniors by assigning a representative from the Commission to each of the elderly housing areas. Many members felt that the community is already aware of the services that the senior center provides and if they have any concerns or issues, they will either speak to a Commission member or more likely, call the center directly. Barbara Warden added that the Commission may not know exactly how much is accomplished at the center and Clara added that all services and programs are advertised both in the Busy Bee and area newspapers. Priscilla noted that the Colchester Housing Authority is very involved in the community and suggested inviting the Director and Services Coordinator to a meeting to get their input on the issue.

8. Adjournment: Clara Erickson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m. Barbara Warden seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Komoroski