

Colchester Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 14, 2008 – Colchester Senior Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bernie Erickson, Vice Chairman Ann Smyk, Jean Stawicki, Barbara Warden, Betty Ann Oppelt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Clara Erickson, Sally Carbone, Bill Wagner, James Cunningham

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Russi, Rosemary Coyle

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.
2. **Minutes:** Ann Smyk motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of 3/10/08. BettyAnn Oppelt seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
3. **Financial Report:** Jean Stawicki reported that she attended the budget hearing on 3/11/08 with Cathy Russi and received a note stating that \$450 has been cut from the Senior Center budget for a new fax machine. Although, with the new technology, there is still fax capability available. Bus transportation collection was \$177.55 in February and \$177.00 in March. Ann Smyk motioned to accept the Financial Report. BettyAnn Oppelt seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTIONED CARRIED.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Bernie Erickson reported that he will attend the Selectman's meeting on Thursday night.
5. **Friends of the Senior Center Report:** They are meeting on the last Thursday of the month. They have has low attendance so they will decide whether they will continue to meet. Jean Stawicki asked if they had prepared a report on their findings. Cathy Russi said they did prepare one that she has.
6. **Senior Center Director's Report:** Cathy Russi remarked that the budget is at a 0 mil increase and that everyone has worked very hard to keep it there. Rosemary stated that it is actually 2% less than last year's budget because the grand list only increased a minimal amount this year. Also, the town budget is separate this year from the school budget. Cathy asked that members of the Commission tell people of the community about the budget and to urge them to

go to the public hearings so they can hear about it and get their questions answered. The hearings are on April 21st and 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Cathy Russi reported that Pricilla and Jean Stawicki went to Senior Resource for training on the Choices program. Cathy and Donna Paty have already completed the training. This enables them to help seniors with healthcare issues such as Medicare parts A, B, C & D, Medicaid, insurance, ConnPACE, ConnMAP, long term care, hospice, etc. This is a 5 week training program of very comprehensive instruction. If anyone has questions regarding these issues, they can set up an appointment with one of the trained people.

Cathy related that people tend to think of the senior center mostly as a recreational facility however, the senior center provides more and more social services. The office is providing a lot of one on one assistance to the elderly because everyone's needs are different and each program has different requirements.

Saturday May 3rd is the volunteer dinner. All Commission members are invited. Appetizers begin at 11:30 and dinner of steak or fish is at noon. Cathy would like to know how many hours per month you volunteer and what type of volunteering you do.

Cathy was asked to speak at Bacon Academy's graduation this year. She was very honored by this invitation. The senior center has worked with several departments at the high school and Cathy feels that the message of positive aging is getting through. She has tried hard to show that there are many elderly people who have a lot to give back to society as well as many youngsters who can help the seniors, too.

Pricilla worked with Jack Jackter and the intergenerational choral group where the kids sang, the seniors sang then they all sang together. It was a very positive experience for all.

Pricilla is also working with the youth center on the Green Team. They will work on everything for a garden from testing the soil through planting, harvesting and cooking with the produce.

On May 6th, Rosemary Coyle will be speaking at the AARP meeting about the tax program that was developed through the task force.

TRIAD is meeting tomorrow, April 15th, for Senior Appreciation Day. It will be held on June 5th at St. Andrew's Church.

The singing group will be performing at the Norwich Senior Center and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Pricilla is in charge of coordinating all of the details.

The town expo is on April 22nd. There will be a trail from Town Hall over to the Senior Center with tables at both places. The Senior Center is offering free soup, but if anyone wants, they can make a donation to Feed the Children.

The seniors are working with Bacon Academy students for Feed the Children. On April 20th, they will be at Stop & Shop collecting food and/or money. Half of the collection will stay in town and the other half will go to the national program, but will remain in the United States.

Cathy is leaving on the Scandinavia/Russia trip on May 16th.

May is Older American Month and Senior Center Week is in September.

Ann Smyk motioned to accept the Senior Center Director's Report. Barbara Warden seconded. All other members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Old Business: No items were reported.

8. New Business: No items were reported.

9. Nomination of New Officers: Ann Smyk stated that she will finish out her term as Vice Chair. Barbara Warden nominated Jean Stawicki to fill the Chair position.

Ann Smyk motioned to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Cathy Russi be reappointed as Municipal Agent for the Elderly. Barbara Warden seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Adjournment: Ann Smyk motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m. Jean Stawicki seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Komoroski