



# TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging

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*Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*

## Colchester Commission on Aging

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2008 – Colchester Senior Center

NANCY A. BRA  
TOWN OF FRR

*Nancy A. Bra*

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COLCHESTER, CT

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Jean Stawicki, Vice Chairman Ann Smyk, Bernie Erickson, Clara Erickson, Sally Carbone, Sue Maikshilo, Barbara Warden

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bill Wagner, Betty Ann Oppelt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Pricilla Clesowich

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.
- 2. Minutes:** Clara Erickson motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/8/08. Barbara Warden seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 3. Financial Report:** Bernie Erickson reported that the senior center collected \$238.50 from transportation in September. \$73.50 of that was from out-of-town trips including Lisbon Shopping Center and Lunch Bunch. Sue Maikshilo motioned to accept the Financial Report. Clara Erickson seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** Jean Stawicki reported that she attended a meeting at Town Hall with other town representatives and the United Community and Family Services (UC&FS). They are a social service that is looking to expand services into Colchester. They currently have offices in Norwich and Bozrah. They offer dental, mental, geriatric, pediatric, etc. services. They would benefit seniors who don't have insurance or could bridge the gap between Medicare and Medicaid. They are looking for office space in town.

Jean stated that Cathy Russi's last day was October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bernie and Clara attended the daytime retirement party at St. Andrew's and Jean and Pricilla went to the nighttime event at the Holiday Inn in Norwich. Both events were well attended and she received many thoughtful gifts.

Jean reported that Clara Erickson has agreed to sit in on the interview panel for the new Senior Center Director. The closing date for application was October 10<sup>th</sup>. Pricilla added that they received 40-50 applications and she and Donna have been asked by Linda Hodge to help sort through them to select interview

candidates. She said that Linda, Lynn Marra, Clara and possibly either Pricilla or Donna will be on the interview panel.

There is a meeting next Thursday with the Selectman and the Commission Chairs. Jean will be out of town but will send in a report.

Jean has also obtained a copy of the bylaws.

- 5. Senior Center Director's Report:** Pricilla Clesowich reported that Cathy ordered new rectangular tables for the dining room before she left. They were financed with money received from a bank grant.

Pricilla is currently looking for a new TV so that she can play games like Family Feud on one and people can play Wii on the other.

The Veterans have offered to replace the curtains and paint the room that they use. They have chosen a paint color and should be starting soon.

The flu clinic will be on November 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-3 and November 21<sup>st</sup> from 9-12. It will be held in the dining room which should help with the flow of traffic.

The Veteran's Program is on November 7<sup>th</sup> at Colchester Elementary School. The Senior Center will provide transportation to participating veterans up to the school.

Cathy got the state matching grant with the DOT all set through January.

TVCCA will be providing the Thanksgiving meal. There was discussion about inviting town employees and clergy. This has always been done in the past and the senior center has absorbed the \$7.00 per meal cost. It was suggested to notify everyone about the meal and let them know what the cost will be.

Pricilla said they have gotten some volunteers to help answer phones until the new Director is hired. Donna will be out next week, so there is still a need. Barbara Warden volunteered to help.

Pricilla said she is waiting for the new Director before planning any big trips. These are fund raisers for the center, but don't benefit it in any other way since most of the travelers are not people who use the services.

Table tennis is going very well. Pricilla suggested having a night where the center would be open for table tennis as well as things like Scrabble Tournaments. She would be willing to run it and use the comp time during the day.

Sally Carbone motioned to accept the Senior Center Director's Report. Sue Maikshilo seconded. All other members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

**6. Old Business:**

**A. Review of Director of the Senior Center's Job Description:**

Discussion ensued regarding the usefulness of reviewing the actual job description as the application process had already closed. Jean felt it was still important for the Commission to give their input. Clara already had some ideas for questions that she would like to ask during the interviews. Many present felt that a lot of the items on the job description were things that should be delegated to other staff members. It was also mentioned that the new Director could be open to partnering with surrounding senior centers for trips, transportation and socializing.

**B. Accreditation Process – How to Proceed:** Jean Stawicki brought up the purchase of a manual that describes how to apply for accreditation. It costs \$120.00. She said the center can use the book now as a guideline because there are several things they can begin doing to prepare for the application process. She is opposed to the money coming out of the programming budget.

**7. New Business:**

**A. How to Best Serve our Seniors:** Jean indicated that there are a lot of possibilities to serve our seniors to a greater extent. All senior housing is for 55 and over as well as some handicapped space. She suggested sending a liaison to each meeting. Clara reported that she does attend the Gan-a-Den II meetings and feels they all know about the senior center and its services. She said that the Busy Bee is delivered to all the senior housing developments as well as other spots around town. The activities and services are also printed in the newspapers. Pricilla remarked that there has been a shift over the last several years from seniors who come to the center for a full day to those who come in for specific programs resulting in shorter visits.

**B. Agenda Building:** Jean would like to make the agenda more specific. This way, people would be more likely to attend meetings if they knew in advance what is up for discussion.

**8. Adjournment:** Bernie Erickson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m. Clara Erickson seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Komoroski