



TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging
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Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow

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Nancy A. Bray

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TOWN CLERK

Colchester Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2013 - Dublin Village

Members Present: Chairperson Rose Levine, Marilyn Finnegan, Jean Stawicki, Goldie Liverant, Gary Siddell, Rob Gustafson

Members Absent: Betty Ann Oppelt, Joe Menhart

Others Present: Patty Watts, Rosemary Coyle, Mary Tomasi, other citizens

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair R. Levine at 8:34 a.m.
2. **Minutes:** M. Finnegan motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/8/13. G. Siddell seconded. J. Stawicki abstained. All others voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. J. Stawicki motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/12/13. G. Siddell seconded. G. Liverant abstained. All others voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
3. **Financial Report:** No items were reported.
4. **Chairman's Report:**
 - a. **Resignation of B. Oppelt:** R. Levine reported that she regretfully learned that B. Oppelt resigned from the Commission. R. Coyle said she would inform the Board of Selectmen. G. Siddell motioned to request that the Board of Selectmen move J. Menhart from an alternate to a full Commission member. G. Liverant seconded. All others voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
5. **Senior Center Director's Report:** P. Watts reported that the new program director will begin on September 25th. She comes with wonderful work experience and credentials. The building façade project is almost completed. There is a volunteer group working on some paneling and painting the hallway. Patty will meet with Jim Paggioli to map out the remaining portion of the project which she hopes will be completed by December. There is an Eagle Scout candidate who is fundraising for and will build some new shelving that will also act as a room divider. And Mr. Peterson from Bacon Academy contacted her about building library shelving and an entertainment center. The newsletter has been reformatted and renamed. There have been a lot of compliments. The monthly 'getting to know you' sessions have helped ease into some of the changes. The summer picnic in August had 35 people in attendance. There was also a back to school pancake breakfast. September is 'Hunger Action Month'. They are collecting for school lunches for the town food pantry. September is also 'National Senior Center Month'. The nationwide theme for 2013 is "Senior Centers: Experts at Living Well". Seniors are asked to complete the sentence; "I believe older adults _____." The responses will be compiled and presented on Monday September 23rd by motivational speaker Kathie Nitz. There will be a

\$7 lunch from 12 – 1 then the presentation from 1-2. There is no charge for the program. A new craft class began last Thursday. They are working on a scarecrow for the green and a holiday tree for the Wadsworth Atheneum. Patty also met with the drivers. There has been an increase in usage of the center. Donna has been tracking new people that either come in or call. There were 12 in August and 5 so far in September. The new state trooper began last week. Patty will get in touch with him regarding TRIAD.

6. **Current Senior Center Building Update:** Reported on in #5.
7. **Senior/Community Center Building Committee Update:** R. Coyle reported that the final informational meeting will be held on September 9th at 7 pm at town hall. The Town Meeting to send the project to referendum will be on September 18th at 7 pm at the town hall. Then the referendum will be on October 1st from 6 am to 8 pm, also at town hall. They discussed the cost increases if the combined project does not move forward, i.e. doing the school and senior center separate as well as the increased cost of approximately a million dollars per year if it gets postponed. They have special permission to receive this years state reimbursement if it is passed on October 1st.
8. **Discussion with Housing Authority:** R. Gustafson reported that there are 70 units between Dublin Village and Ponemah Village. There are currently 46 people on the waiting list which is relatively low compared to past years. Placements are done for those most in need. It is determined with a point system. Criteria for placement is 62 years of age or older, or collection of Social Security Disability. There is also an income limit which is determined by the state and changes every year. 14 people were placed last year which is a higher number than in the past. There have been years with no turnover at all. One of the goals of the Housing Authority is aging in place. Some of the older buildings are not up to current Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Louis Delpivo, Tenant Commissioner, related that other towns have requested grants to rehabilitate senior housing which seem to carry more weight than when a Housing Authority makes the grant request. P. Watts reported that she is planning on holding some meetings at the senior housing complexes so she can meet seniors that live there and share what is going on at the center.
9. **Old Business:** R. Levine is hoping to have resource guide published by the end of September.
10. **New Business:** There was discussion on the hours that the senior center is open. Currently the hours are 8 am - 4:30 pm. J. Stawicki motioned for the Commission to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen supporting changing the hours to 8 am - 4 pm with the ½ hour from 7:30 - 8 am for administrative time. R. Gustafson seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
11. **Citizen's Comments:** There are some pressing issues at the senior housing areas such as the sidewalk near Dublin Village which is dangerous to walk on, converting tubs to walk in showers, widening doorways to accommodate walkers and making other structural updates to comply with new disability standards.
12. **Adjournment:** G. Liverant motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. J. Stawicki seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle Komoroski