



TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging
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Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow

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TOWN CLERK

Colchester Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2013 - Colchester Town Hall

Members Present: Chairperson Rose Levine, Jean Stawicki, Betty Ann Oppelt, Goldie Liverant, Gary Siddell

Members Absent: Marilyn Finnegan, Rob Gustafson

Others Present: Priscilla Clesowich, Rosemary Coyle, Pat Selles, Joe Menhart

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Rose Levine at 8:38 a.m.
- 2. Minutes:** J. Stawicki motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of 3/11/13. B. Oppelt seconded. All others voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 3. Financial Report:** B. Oppelt reported that the daily transportation for February was \$199 and the trips were \$75 totaling \$274. The daily transportation for March was \$184 and trips collected \$52 for a monthly total of \$236. The year-to-date total is \$2,760.50.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** R. Levine reported that Herb Davis resigned from the Commission. She will write a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking to move Gary Siddell from an alternate to a full member. J. Menhart has submitted an application and is scheduled to be interviewed by the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting on April 18th. R. Levine also said she attended the disaster presentation this past Saturday in East Lyme. G. Siddell also attended. There is a lot of information on the internet on how to plan for a disaster for a family as a whole, for elderly and for caregivers of elderly and disabled. They distributed cards entitled 'Your Families Plan' so all necessary information can be compiled in one place. Colchester does have a disaster planning team. There was discussion regarding identifying citizens who need to be contacted during emergencies to be sure they are safe and have what they need. The senior center director used to do this but there is no one in that position currently.
- 5. Senior Center Director's Report:** P. Clesowich reported that the first set of interviews for the director position was held two weeks ago. There are 3 candidates. She meets with the First Selectman biweekly. M. Wasicki from the Finance Department completed all the grant requests. Priscilla related that they are maintaining the status quo but she's spending time on the day to day operations of the center rather than programming. One important job that's not being handled is that of municipal agent. The VFW room where many exercise classes are held is currently unusable because the floor is collapsing. The medical van is broken and there is discussion on whether it will be fixed or not. Bacon Academy Board of Trustees own the building that the center is housed in. They requested rent of \$25,000 per year which was not approved by the Board of Finance. They also offered to sell the building

to the town. The Board of Finance has put the same dollar amount for the senior center into the next budget as was in for last year. Priscilla also reported that the Southeast Healthy Living Expo for 2013 is entitled "Living Today for a Better Tomorrow". It will be held Thursday, May 23rd from 9:30 to 12:30 at the Backus Technology Center, 11 Stott Avenue in Norwich.

6. **Senior/Community Center Building Committee Update:** The building committee has made some cuts and reduced the cost of the project from \$68 million to \$57 million. The cost to only renovate the middle school portion is \$53 million. Delaying the project by one year adds about \$1 million to the bottom line and there were additional costs associated with PCB removal. G. Liverant stressed that people need to be aware of the reimbursement amount which was thought to be approximately 61%. The building committee is very good about the inclusion of the senior center portion of the project and reminds that renovating this building reduces costs of new construction by using the existing land which is already town owned, foundation, walls and kitchen. There was reiteration that the plan calls for a separate senior center entrance which is not accessible from the school, as well as a separate driveway and parking lot.
7. **Senior Resource List:** No items were reported.
8. **Old Business:** No items were reported.
9. **New Business:** The upcoming year's budget was discussed. The Commission is concerned that if the budget does not pass, the senior center director position will be cut and the senior center will become part of a larger department with one supervisor for the senior center, youth services and social services. There was considerable discussion surrounding how to make the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance aware of the Commission's recommendation that the senior center retains its own director. They decided to ask to be added to both agendas for their next meetings. The Board of Finance meets on Wednesday, April 17th and the Board of Selectmen meets on Thursday, April 18th. Both meetings are at 7 p.m. in the town hall. The Commission agreed to attend each meeting and voice their concerns.
10. **Adjournment:** Goldie Liverant motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 a.m. Gary Siddell seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle Komoroski