

**ELDERLY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**REGULAR MEETING: October 22, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.**  
East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room

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*Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2012:*

I. Chairman Badstubner called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**II. Attendance:**

Present Members: Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent), Claire Badstubner (Chairman), Catherine Drouin (Co-Chairman), Deb Donovan (arrived at 6:07 p.m.) Madeline Thompson.

Absent Commission Members: None

Subcommittee Members: Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent), Catherine Drouin, Deb Donovan (arrived at 6:07 p.m.), Patricia Tracy, Elzear Rodrigue.

Subcommittee Members Absent: John Burnham (works until 5:30; he hopes to arrive prior to the conclusion of the meeting).

**III. Previous Minutes (Regular meeting 9/24/12):**

Approval delayed until Commissioner Donovan's arrival.

**IV. Added Agenda Items:** None

**V. New Business:** None.

**VI. Continuing Business/A. Elderly Commission Sub-Committee – Senior Center**

**1. Sub-committee members:**

Ms. Burns noted the potential size of the sub-committee is anticipated to be 9 to 11 members, including First Selectman Menard and Ms. Burns, 3 members of the current Senior Center, 1 member from the Chamber of Commerce, and 3 members from the community. Ms. Burns advised the Commission 2 of the original members – Mr. Thurz and Mrs. Crouch – have declined involvement in the sub-committee due to personal conflicts. She is hoping to encourage men to volunteer as they may bring a different perspective to the project. Ms. Burns advised the Commission Ms. Dorothy Bowens has volunteered to join the sub-committee as a Senior representative.

During the meeting two residents – Mr. Charley Tatro and Mr. Albert Floyd – approached the Commission and volunteered their services for the sub-committee.

**2. Sub-committee meeting schedule/plan:**

Ms. Burns suggested the goal of the sub-committee is to see that East Windsor has an accessible Senior Center which could also be used by multiple entities, including a social

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services component, a clothing center, Park and Recreation, and perhaps the food pantry which is outgrowing its current space. She envisions a center with a dedicated area for senior activities, perhaps an indoor swimming pool, an area for fitness classes or other group activities; the goal would be to create a facility that would be utilized by active seniors in their 60s through older seniors who may look to the facility for socialization, camaraderie, and health and food services. Ms. Burns noted the current Senior Center acts as a delivery source for the Meals on Wheels Program. They currently accept the prepared food from the Hartford facility, and then load local vehicles for delivery within town. Volunteers are exposed to the weather as the current Senior Center has no portico to offer protection.

Ms. Burns suggested the sub-committee will investigate if the goal will be to construct an entirely new structure – the Town owns significant acreage on Reservoir Avenue and along the Connecticut River, or retrofit an existing structure. Use of the current Walmart was discussed, as the building will be vacated when the new facility is completed. Ms. Tracy suggested use of one of the empty buildings in the industrial park or along Newberry Road; Ms. Burns noted the Town tries to keep the industrial/commercial buildings on the tax rolls and the Economic Development Commission is consistently working to fill those buildings. She noted Mr. Burnham would like to encourage the expanded use of Scout Hall; to that end he has worked up a model to incorporate a Senior Center with the existing facility. Ms. Tracy suggested she would like to see a facility with surrounding land to encourage outside activities as well.

Ms. Burns handed out a brochure from the Town of Ellington, which is currently working on a similar project. She noted this project has the support of the Board of Selectmen, and must go through all the approval processes as any other project. She suggested the goal is to complete the project within a 2 or 3 year timeframe.

Discussion followed regarding the current perception of the term “seniors”. Chairman Badstubner suggested renaming the facility as a community center to gain broader appeal. Ms. Burns suggested the term senior isn’t about a number, it’s about a mindset.

LET THE RECORD SHOW Mr. Rodrigue left the meeting at 6:05 p.m. to attend the Capital Improvement Committee meeting.

LET THE RECORD SHOW Ms. Donovan arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Ms. Burns suggested the sub-committee invite the Assessor to attend a future meeting to discuss potential Town-owned properties. The sub-committee should also consider meeting with the Chairman of the Economic Development Commission as well.

**MOTION: To appoint Patricia Tracy as Acting Chairman of the Elderly Commission Sub-committee for the Senior Center.**

**Donovan moved/Drouin seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous**

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**MOTION: To appoint Catherine Drouin as Co-Chairman of the Elderly Commission Sub-committee for the Senior Center.**

**Donovan moved/Thompson seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous**

The Sub-committee considered meeting dates and locations for November. The Sub-committee ultimately decided on:

Thursday, November 15, 6:00 p.m., Warehouse Point library

Monday, November 26, 6:00 p.m., Warehouse Point library

Ms. Tracy will investigate use of the library and will advise Ms. Burns, who will in turn advise the Recording Secretary for posting of agendas, etc.

**Continuing Business/B. Yellow Dot Program:**

**1. Update on training schedule:**

Ms. Drouin summarized that the Yellow Dot Program is a safety program which identifies that a senior or disabled person is present in a vehicle; should either of those individuals suffer a medical emergency and be unable to communicate their condition an emergency responder would note the yellow dot posted in the rear window of the vehicle and would be aware that medical information should be available in the vehicle glove compartment.

Ms. Drouin reported that she, Ms. Donovan, and Ms. Thompson have volunteered to be local trainers for this program. Although their training remains pending their role would be to educate the public – especially seniors and disabled individuals - about the program, and to assist emergency management personnel as needed. Chairman Badstubner noted the Police Department and the Fire Departments are already on board for this program.

Ms. Drouin reported they have not yet received a date for their training in Bridgeport.

**VII. General Discussion:**

The Elderly Commission members considered the remainder of their meeting schedule for 2012; they will NOT meet in November or December.

After consideration of meeting dates for 2013 the following schedule was approved:

**MOTION: To APPROVE the following meeting schedule for 2013 for the Elderly Commission:**

**Monday, January 28, at 5:30 p.m.**

**Monday, February 25, at 5:30 p.m.**

**Monday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m.**

**Monday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m.**

**NO MEETING FOR MAY**

**Monday, June 24, at 5:30 p.m.**

**NO MEETING FOR JUNE**

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**Drouin moved/Donovan seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous**

**III. Previous Minutes (Regular meeting 9/24/12):**

**MOTION: To APPROVE the Minutes of Regular Meeting dated September 24, 2012as presented.**

**Drouin moved/Donovan seconded/**

**VOTE: In Favor: Badstubner/Donovan/Drouin  
Opposed: No one  
Abstained: Thompson**

**VIII. Public Input – comments only (5 minute maximum):**

No one requested to speak.

**IX. Adjournment:**

**MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 6:37 p.m.**

**Donovan moved/Drouin seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous**

Respectfully submitted,  
Peg Hoffman, substitute Recording Secretary  
For the East Windsor Elderly Commission 10/22/2012