

Commission on Aging  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 16, 2011

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, May 16,, 2011 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Thomas Dwyer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Thomas Dwyer, Karin Aurelia, James Bernardi, LeReine Frampton, Mary Ellen Lydem, Carol Mattegat, Joan Plouffe, Curt Symes, and Anna Wiedemann.

Members Absent: Sheila Torres.

Support & Advisory Present: Marilyn Place, Director of Senior Services; Ann Piccini, Municipal Agent for the Elderly; John Aurelia and Bob Sharpe of the Senior Action Committee.

Invited Guest: Linda Manganaro, Executive Director of Newtown Housing For The Elderly.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None

**GUEST SPEAKER.** As approved at the COA's April 18th meeting, Linda Manganaro was invited to update the commissioners on the latest developments at the Nunnawauk Meadows housing complex and give her views on the general subject of affordable housing for the elderly in Newtown. She stated that Nunnawauk has started blacktopping all their road surfaces with funds obtained through a U.S. government loan and is installing baseboard electric heat in all units to replace the current heating system. She commented that there's a need for more senior housing in Newtown because although they have 134 units there's a current waiting list of 100 individuals who can't be accommodated for at least a year, more in most cases, and they've formed a committee to look into building additional units.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Regarding our request that the two handicapped parking spaces currently serving the south entrance of the Municipal Center be transferred to spaces that are available closer to that entrance, Mr. Dwyer has learned that this must be put off until the town can obtain the necessary funding.

**MINUTES** Upon motion of Mrs. Wiedemann, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2011 were unanimously accepted as presented.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** Mrs. Aurelia distributed copies of the April, 2011 Commission on Aging Gift Fund Report which presently shows a balance of \$42,988.00. (Attachment A to original minutes) and gave a check for \$100.00 to Mrs. Place as a donation from her family to the Gift Fund to help pay for replacing the Senior Center van.

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT.** Mrs. Place distributed her report for the period April 18, 2011 to May 16, 2011 (Attachment B to original minutes) and reviewed it with the commissioners. She noted particularly that arrangements are being made to have Dr. Robert Deveny of Danbury Orthopedics give a lecture at the Senior Center in June on the subject of hip and knee replacements.

**MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY REPORT.** Mrs. Piccini distributed a report of her office's activities since the last meeting (Attachment C to original minutes) and reviewed it with the commissioners.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

**New Senior Center Van.** Regarding the 2008 van that Mrs. Place would like the town to purchase as a replacement for the current one, and which she reported on at the COA's April meeting, she stated that a quote of \$22,320 has been received from Matthews Buses Inc. of Tolland, Connecticut (the owners) which represents a \$24,770 sales price less \$2,450 trade in allowance on the current van. As the town requires that three bids be obtained on all town purchases, additional bids have been solicited but the Matthews quote turned out to be the best. Mr. Symes reported that he inspected the van on a recent trip to Hartford and found it to be in excellent condition and was impressed with the owner's representatives. Mrs. Place stated that Paul Tani of the town's Public Works Department has told her that Matthews has an excellent reputation and the specifications on the van indicate that it's in good shape. In view of the fact that the current van needs to be replaced as soon as possible, the price for the Matthews vehicle is less than half of what a new one would cost, Matthews will allow a surprisingly good trade in credit on the current van and there's no hope of the town financing the purchase of a replacement in the near future, Mrs. Place requested that the sum of \$22,320 be withdrawn from the COA's Gift Fund and be given to the town for the purchase of the Matthew's van which is expected to become available in about three weeks. Mr. Bernardi moved that the Mrs. Place's request be approved and Mrs. Wiedemann seconded it. The motion was carried with Aurelia, Dwyer, Frampton, Mattegat, Symes and Wiedemann voting YES, and Plouffe, Lydem and Bernardi voting NO.

**New Senior Center.** Mr. Dwyer noted that the Fairfield Hills Master Plan Committee is conducting a survey on the internet ([www.fairfieldhillssurvey.com](http://www.fairfieldhillssurvey.com)) to determine what sort of development town residents would like to see on the Fairfield Hills campus and several of the questions concern areas of interest to the COA such as whether respondents would like to see a stand alone senior center there or one which is part of a building that also contains other facilities. The survey also asks for opinions as to whether age restricted housing should be built on the campus.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

**Usage of the Senior Center.** Mrs. Frampton asked Mrs. Place to provide at each future COA meeting the number of seniors who have used the Senior Center on a daily basis during the previous month plus the number who have annual memberships. Mrs. Wiedemann noted that this information will be needed in order to justify our request for a new Senior Center.

**ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Ann M. Mazur, Clerk