

Commission on Aging
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, June 20, 2011

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, June 20, 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, Curt Symes, Sheila Torres and Anna Wiedemann.

Members Excused: Joan Plouffe.

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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. Mr. Dwyer invited Frank DeLucia (Republican) to join the Commission on Aging.

MINUTES Mrs. Frampton said that Mrs. Plouffe asked that the minutes be amended to include some of the discussion regarding the vote on the van to show that we were not setting a precedent as the van is a need and not a want. Mr. Dwyer preferred that those with a correction state be present. Mrs. Aurelia moved to accept the minutes as written, second by Mrs. Wiedemann with objection by Mrs. Mattegat and Mrs. Frampton and affirmative vote by the others present.

Mr. Dwyer noted that usually the July and August Commission on Aging meetings are cancelled. Mr. Symes asked that the meetings of July and August be held in view of the fact that there is much going on. Mrs. Lydem noted that since she has been on the Board, those meetings have been cancelled. Mr. Dwyer agreed and noted that the meetings in July and August will not be held unless something comes up to warrant a meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Mrs. Aurelia distributed copies of the May, 2011 Commission on Aging Gift Fund which presently stands at \$43,729.20. (Attachment A to original minutes). Mrs. Frampton asked what the deduction of \$9,144.41 represents. Mrs. Aurelia will research this and report to the Commission. The Treasurer's Report will not be accepted until this is clarified.

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT (Attachment B to original minutes). Mrs. Place included the daily attendance, cumulative for the month. Mrs. Frampton asked how many come for lunch each day; Mrs. Place said about 15. Mrs. Frampton asked for a membership list. Mrs. Place said that under FOI no Senior Center can give out a membership list. Mrs. Frampton would like to know the number of people who attended two years ago who did not attend this year. Mrs. Lydem said that this information was retrieved about five years ago to justify the need

for a new Senior Center as a Five Year Plan. Mrs. Frampton said that the Town is questioning this need. Mrs. Lydem said that this has been in the CIP each year except for this year. Mr. Bernardi noted that Mr. Dwyer's letter to the Fairfield Hills Master Plan was read but it is noted that there are no funds right now for a stand along building. Mrs. Lydem noted that we are in a holding pattern now because the Senior Center will not be part of the Park and Recreation building because of a wetlands problem which shrunk the size of the building which would result in less space for the Senior Center. She noted that the money should continue to be left in the CIP. Mr. Bernardi said that the Fairfield Hills Authority understands that the Senior Center wants a stand alone building. Mr. Dwyer noted that the Master Plan Review Committee survey will extrapolate how many seniors want a stand along building and how many would accept a combined building. Mrs. Place noted that perhaps the Senior Center should send another survey out to the mailing list. Mrs. Frampton would like to know why some Newtown seniors go to other Centers. Mrs. Place said that different Senior Centers offer different programs and she gets seniors from other towns also. She said that people are charged an annual fee for participating in classes and thus become members. Mrs. Lydem move d to sponsor the transportation to the Annual Picnic on Monday August 22 at Holiday Hill. Mrs. Frampton noted that there is no charge for her bus. Second by Mrs. Aurelia and unanimously carried.

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY REPORT. (Attachment C to original minutes).

Mrs. Piccini noted that the State of Connecticut has cancelled the ConnPace program as of July 1, 2011. ConnPace will only be available to those who do not qualify for Medicare. Mrs. Frampton noted that Stop & Shop will sponsor a food drive in the summer which she will work on.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW SENIOR CENTER. This was discussed earlier.

NEW SENIOR CENTER VAN. Mr. Dwyer understood that most of the Commission on Aging members voted to remove the funding from the Gift Fund at the last meeting on the condition that Mr. Dwyer and Mrs. Place meet with the First Selectman to request that the Town reimburse the Gift Fund. Mrs. Place emailed the First Selectman asking that the membership dues be used reimburse the Gift Fund but she has not heard back. Mrs. Place said that the van company is waiting for title and the van should be delivered by the end of next month.

NEW BUSINESS. Mr. Dwyer distributed a revised Commission on Aging contact list. Mrs. Frampton noted that the following funds will be donated to the Gift Fund: \$654.25 from the Quilt, \$2,000.00 from the Raffle and \$319.00 for a total of \$29,000.00.

ADJOURNMENT. Upon motion of Mrs. Aurelia, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Ann M. Mazur, Clerk