



# COMMISSION ON AGING

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street  
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 792-3048

The meeting of the Commission on Aging for February 9, 2015 was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The meeting of the Commission on Aging for March 9, 2015 was called to order at 2:40 p.m. by Chairman Al Barney.

Members present: Commissioners Al Barney, Mary Menti, Barbara Negri, Kay Visconti and Senior Center Director/Municipal Agent Lisa Plumb.

**Minutes from the meeting of January 16, 2015:** Distributed. A motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Negri and seconded by Commissioner Menti. All were in favor.

**Municipal Agent's Report:** Distributed by Municipal Agent Lisa Plumb. A motion to accept the report for February 9, 2015 as read was made by Commissioner Negri and seconded by Chairman Barney. All were in favor. A motion to accept the report for March 9, 2015 as read was made by Commissioner Negri and seconded by Chairman Barney.

**Director's Report:** Distributed by Director Lisa Plumb. A motion to accept the report for February 9, 2015 as read was made by Commissioner Negri and seconded by Commissioner Menti. All were in favor. A motion to accept the report for March 9, 2015 as read was made by Commissioner Visconti and seconded by Chairman Barney.

**Treasurer's Report:** Distributed by Chairman Barney in lieu of Treasurer Judy Novachek's absence. A motion to accept the report was made by Chairman Barney and seconded by Commissioner Visconti.

**Old Business:** Director Plumb stated that she is still working on a plan to get a van for the senior center. She gets calls regarding transportation issues from residents every month.

- Director Plumb also brought up the possibility of getting a food service for the senior center. It was determined that she would not consider a food service at this time. She feels that the majority of members are satisfied with the food they are served at present.

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

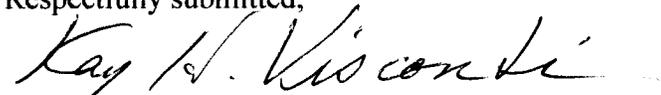
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**New Business:** Director Plumb stated that when she met with the Board of Finance regarding the budget they asked why out of town residents do not pay a fee to attend programs in Bethel. They suggested we charge a fee in the future and would like us to look into the possibility. A discussion ensued. Director Plumb asked the Commissioners to mull it over and it will be discussed at next month's meeting.

- Today's meeting was held in the new library/computer room. Kudos were given to Director Plumb and the company, Triumph Actuation Systems, CT-LLC, who gifted their time and the purchases to renovate the space.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. by Chairman Barney. Next scheduled meeting is 2:30 p.m. on **Monday, April 13, 2015.**

Respectfully submitted,



Kay H. Visconti  
Secretary, Commission on Aging

# **BETHEL SENIOR CENTER**

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center  
1 School Street, Bethel, CT. 06801  
Telephone: 203-792-3048; Fax: 203-744-3812

Municipal Agent's Report  
2-9-15

- Received a call from a blind resident interested in services available and assistance devices.
- Several senior housing calls. Information given or mailed out.
- Requests for adaptive equipment continues to be a need. Donations are needed for wheelchairs, shower chairs and commodes, which are our most requested items. An ad ran on the Comcast Community channel but little donations were received.
- Three calls were received regarding transportation issues of senior citizens in our community.

*Lisa Plumb*  
2-9-15

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Municipal Agent's Report  
3-9-15

This month several requests for Senior Housing were made and handouts given.

There was an inquiry about Reverse Mortgages.

Several requests for adaptive equipment: wheelchair(s), canes, walkers, shower chairs and commodes. We have received a few items after advertising that donations were needed.

There was a call from a local community member concerned about a resident they felt had dementia and is living alone. Lisa Plumb did an emergency visit at the person's home and met with the person later in the day as well in her office. John Sarver, Heating Assistance Director, also had an appointment with the woman the same day. Lisa had a conversation with John to get his opinion on this person to see if he noticed any signs of dementia. John stated the person was organized, had shown up on time to the appointment with all of the necessary paperwork and did not show any signs of dementia in his opinion. Lisa then met with Kathleen Gillen, Town of Bethel Social Services Director to see if additional assistance should be given to this woman or another agency called. Kathleen Gillen advised Lisa Plumb that in her opinion everything had been done correctly and no other follow up was necessary at this time.

Respectfully,



Lisa Plumb  
Municipal Agent

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Commission on Aging  
Director's Report - 2-9-15

## OLD BUSINESS

The new Library renovation is on schedule and moving forward on schedule. The room and trim have been painted, the sink and cabinets painted, the wood countertop has been made and the laminate, sink, and bookshelves have been ordered. The rug has been ordered and installed. The electric work has been completed. The project should be complete by the first week of March.

The Coat Drive has ended and the remaining coats were given away or thrown away if not in decent wearable condition.

## NEW BUSINESS

Maureen and Lisa met with the Board of Finance regarding the 2015-2016 budget. There were many questions and positive comments about the Senior Center. The Board asked why out of town residents do not pay a fee to attend programs in Bethel. They suggested we charge a fee in the future.

It was reported at the Board of Finance meeting that there is an average of 1965 members participating in programs at the Senior Center on a monthly basis. There has been as many as 2300 participants per month.

The Bethel Senior Center **registered 397 new members in 2014** compared to:

- 224 new members in 2013
- 54 new members in 2012
- 62 new members in 2011
- 46 new members in 2010

The Art classes have settled into their new space in the Ceramic Studio. We have worked out some minor concerns with the new space and the instructor and members seem to be pleased. Spanish, Italian, Bible Study, and Country Dance classes have all been meeting in the Ceramic Studio. The classes will be moved into the new library (with the exception of Country Dance) in the beginning of March.

Many telephone calls and interest in the Tax Assistance program which will begin 2-11-15.

Respectfully,

  
Lisa Plumb  
Bethel Senior Center Director

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Commission on Aging  
Director's Report 3-9-15

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Library renovation is complete and opened as of today. The IT Director is working on the problem to hook up all of the computers as soon as possible. An Open House will be held on Friday, 3-13-15 to recognize the Triumph Actuation Systems, Inc. for the outstanding job they did renovating the room.

The Board of Finance would like the Senior Center to consider charging out of town members a fee to participate in the Senior Center.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There has been a number of Senior Center closings and delayed openings this year due to the severe winter which has impacted the number of members attending the Senior Center. The decision to cancel programs prior to a delayed opening has worked to our benefit monetarily. The Senior Center was paying instructors full pay for a few people attending their classes on these days. It was a good financial decision and safer for all involved.

The tax program is running smoothly. We have had a full schedule every day AARP has been at the Senior Center to do taxes for our members. We have told AARP if they do the taxes at the Senior Center we will only allow people 50 years and older to give our senior citizens in the community priority.

Lisa approached Bob Discount Furniture Store and Raymour & Flanigan furniture store asking for a donation for our new Library. Bob's Discount Furniture Store sent a \$500. gift card. Two vinyl chairs were ordered and will arrive this Wednesday, 3-11-15. Raymour and Flanigan furniture store has called and is sending a gift card as well.

With the opening of the new Library, classes will resume in the new Library starting today. The old computer room was turned into a Games Room. Pinochle, Poker and Board Games will be held in the new Games Room. Bridge, Canasta, & Hand & Foot Canasta will be held in the Old Library, now called the Activity Room. Bible Study, Spanish class, Italian class, Safe Driving and Computer classes will be held in the Library. The former Activity Room where the small kitchen is will be referred to as the Social Room. The Activity Room with the small kitchen will become a Social Room where members may enjoy coffee and snacks while socializing. Special programs will be scheduled such as additional Lunch & Learn programs, themed lunches, socials, presentations, etc...

A new Astrology class will be starting 4-13-15.

Respectfully,

*Lisa Plumb*

Lisa Plumb

Bethel Senior Center Director