



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 March 12, 2012 was called to order at 2:47 p.m. by Commissioner Barbara Negri.

Members present: Commissioners Ann Cummings, Mary Menti, Barbara Negri, Assistant Director Heather Rogalski, and Municipal Agent Kathleen Gillen.

Minutes from the meeting of February 13, 2012: Distributed and accepted as read.

Municipal Agent's Report: Distributed by Municipal Agent Kathleen Gillen and accepted as read.

Director's Report: Distributed by Assistant Director Heather Rogalski and accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: None.

Old Business: - The budget hearing was discussed. Assistant Director Rogalski reiterated the urgent need for a new stove. She reported that they sought repair according to the Fire Marshall's suggestions but were unable to obtain the parts to do so.

New Business: - None.

Miscellaneous (Good of the Order): None.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. by Commissioner Negri. Next scheduled meeting is 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay H. Visconti
Secretary, Commission on Aging

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK



Commission on the Aging

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Director's Report March 12, 2012

February has been a very busy month with the start of AARP tax aide. We have had a full schedule of appointments since the start date of February 8, and we are booking appointments now for March 21. Also, all of our exercise classes are picking up in number. We had a delicious dinner for the Valentine's Day party, but although the entertainment was good, many Seniors would have preferred more dancing and less talking from the vocal artist.

On a more positive "note", our Seniors in the talent show scheduled for June 8 have been coming every Wednesday and they are sounding real good. Zumba, Tap, Line, and Square dancers are all planning to do a number in the show. Our computer class started this past Friday with 6 students. The Quilters are well on their way to getting this year's quilt done. Within a few weeks they have completed about 15 squares.

A two-week bridge workshop started on Tuesday, March 6, and will continue until Thursday, March 15. This workshop costs \$10. We have seven people signed up, and it is going well. On March 15, we will be going on a trip to New Jersey to Ace in the Hole, where we will be treated to a St. Patrick's Day luncheon and show.

We will be offering two seminars in March. On the 20th, representatives from Wells Fargo will be here to talk about social security direct deposit. On the 22nd, an H&R Block associate will be here to talk about 2012 taxes. Monday, March 26, we will be starting another **It's Your Life, Live it Well** 6-week workshop. We have eight Seniors signed up, and it is free.

On February 27, 1,700 newsletters were distributed, among mailings, deliveries to Bishop Curtis and Reynolds Ridge, and those picked up at the Senior Center. Visiting the Center in February, we had an average of 99 people a day. The next AARP Driving class is on April 10.

Our budget hearing on February 28 went just fine. We asked the Finance Committee to support the purchase of a new stove for the large kitchen, 5 new large tables, and an increase in the Dues and Education account of \$1500, which is what they took out last year. This would be very helpful to my replacement.

Upcoming Trips in 2012

March 15	A Great Day for the Irish at Ace in the Hole - \$ 74
April 12	Crooners and Cannoli - \$ 74
April 17	Mohegan Sun -\$25
May 17	Lobster Fest at Platz Brauhous - \$69
June 14	George M.- Westchester Playhouse - \$ 83
June 27-July 1	Elkins, W.V. - \$ 749
July 10	Sail a Tall Ship Around Manhattan - \$ 74
Aug. 16	Good Vibrations - \$88

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Oles, Director, Bethel Senior Center
Heather Rogalski, Assistant Director, Bethel Senior Center

Commission on Aging Report – March
12, 2012

Donations to the food pantry have been surprisingly steady this winter. They usually fall off after Christmas. I could use a lot more space for storage.

I've had a good response to the article in last month's New Age regarding new income guidelines for SNAP. Many older residents are asking for help in applying for this program. The newer system of electronic benefits cards, which resemble debit cards, have taken some of the stigma away from using food stamps for this group.

The number of elderly or disabled clients who have applied for winter heating

assistance increased by about 20% over last year I'm not looking forward to the end of the winter protection period next month.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gillen

Kathleen Gillen
Bethel Municipal Agent for the Elderly