



COMMISSION ON AGING

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

COMMISSION ON AGING

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. by the Chairman.

MEETING MINUTES

Nov. 5, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE Al Barney (Chairman), Lou Walsh, Shirley Dann, Jim Newell, Gail Hilton, Kathy Oles (Director),

Minutes of last meeting distributed.

1. Minutes accepted as read.
2. Municipal Agents Report-read and accepted.
3. Report, Director, Bethel Senior Center- Report read and accepted

A new computer has been ordered for the office.

4. Report - Treasurer's report read and accepted.
5. Old business - Interviews for the position of asst. director have been completed.
6. New business - Reviewed report on the meeting for the summit meeting of the Commission on Aging. Detailed report enclosed.

Discussed doing a promotional video on the center

The suggestion was made to have guest lecturers.

7. Miscellaneous (good of the order)- None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 P.M. by the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Barney

RECEIVED

NOV 07 2007

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK



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Commissioners' Report October 2007

Our annual Senior Center Fair will take place November 16th and 17th. Many seniors have contributed or will contribute to this major event. We are hoping that it will be as popular as ever with the people in the building and the town. Once again we will be serving our famous hotdogs and sauerkraut and our fresh apple pies. We will have lots of craft and home made bakery goods.

Only 20 people attended our October 18th trip to the Platzl Brauhaus Oktoberfest. We had a great time and signed up with them to take a trip there on March 17th for St. Patrick's Day. It was a fun filled day and I think we will get a much better response to our next trip there. We have invited the Roxbury Senior Center to join us. Our first annual flea market was very successful. There were 31 tables purchased from us for tag sales. Luckily the weather was beautiful and there was a steady flow of buyers. On October 24th we had about 75 people at our "Country Style" Halloween party. Everyone had a good time dancing and they enjoyed our homemade chicken dinner.

Our new music class has been very well attended. We are going to rearrange the library room to make more space available for them. The band is still small but we hope it will grow in the next few months. Our new World Religions class has been very popular with about 15 people attending.

The average number of people per day for the month of October was 129. We mailed out over 1170 newsletters and distributed another 500 by hand. We have not heard anything about the air conditioning for a while except that there is a problem with installation. As you can see our new carpeting for the two classrooms has been installed. We are in the process of redecorating these rooms. Tickets for the quilt have been selling fairly well. On Election Day we will be selling tickets up stairs in the hallway near the First Selectman's office.

Trips:

Dec. 6 th	Spinning Wheel Christmas Show and Luncheon
Dec 19 th	Mohegan Sun
Jan 15, 16, 2008	UConn Basketball
Mar. 4-5, 2008	Philadelphia Flower Show \$199 & up
April 16, 2008	"Buddy The Buddy Holly Story" \$75
May 19 th	Springfield International Tattoo \$74
Nov. 6, 2008	"The Producers" \$75

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Oles - Director, Bethel Senior Center

11/5/07

REPORT - Commission on Aging Summit Meeting, 10/27/07

HOUSING:

1. The predictions by most agree that more seniors want to remain 'in town'. The buzz-word for this is "Aging-in-Place". The challenge is to find affordable housing other than 3-story condos.
2. As to current housing, New Fairfield has none, Ridgefield, Bethel and Danbury have some. Brookfield conducted a survey of all residents over 55 and received about 700 responses! See the Survey Summary attached.
3. Resources - some avenue of resource can be found in Community Development Bloc Grants or from the Western Connecticut Council on Aging. These are something the town grant facilitator could look into.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Exercise classes (including Yoga, Tai Chi, dancing, etc.) are the most popular, especially amongst the younger seniors (ala 55 to 65).
2. Cards and games are very popular at all the centers. Some wonder if this will diminish as the 'baby boomers' enter the senior scene?
3. Ridgefield has been experiencing a demand for more academic classes and is entertaining the notion of some kind of 'visiting professors'.
4. Bethel has the most vibrant program of field trips.
5. Danbury sponsor's an evening of small appliance repair - bring your broken toaster and let's see if we can fix it together. Contact is Jay Geib (791-2260, GEIB@SNET.NET).
6. The home repair contractors booklet is popular with seniors. Danbury has one and the next addition will include the license # and expiration date. Danbury contact is commissioner Jay Geib - see above. In post use srveys almost all were satisfied with work performed by the listed contractors. NOTE - anyone can check a contractors license status by going to www.ct.gov/dep.
7. Ridgefield has a program called the GOLD CARD. Any resident over 55 can be issued one at the town hall. With the card, there are a large number of discount opportunities - see the GOD CARD booklet attached. These include not only retail and restaurant discounts but free admission to events like high school productions, football games, movie matinees, etc.

FINANCE:

1. Yearly budgets - Ridgefield - \$20K from town, \$500K from private endowment; Bethel - \$105K from town; Danbury - - about \$300K from city
2. Meals – Danbury 3 days/wk, catered from Waterbury (meals-on-wheels); Brookfield lunches brought in; New Fairfield – charges \$2.50/lunch.
3. Danbury and Ridgefield solicit sponsors (banks, corps, etc.) to underwrite the cost of parties and special affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. The MetLife Foundation has prepared an excellent book – ‘A Blueprint for Action: Developing a Livable Community for All Ages’.
2. New Fairfield is having trouble with obtaining funding for their center expansion. A large bloc are fighting giving any money to the seniors.
3. IDEA – produce a video (CD) to promote the senior center and arrange to show it a churches, service organizations (like the JCs), the library, etc.
4. The HART bus supervision has made it clear they will work with any town on issues involving the transport of seniors. They also have color coded maps of standard routes.