



COMMISSION ON AGING

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

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1 SCHOOL STREET
BETHEL, CT 06801

The meeting of the Commission on Aging for January 12, 2009 was called to order at 2:37 P.M. by Chairman, Al Barney.

Members present: Chairman Al Barney, Treasurer Lou Walsh, Municipal Agent Kathleen Gillen, Director Kathy Oles, Commissioner Barbara Negri, Commissioner Mary O'Leary and Commissioner Jim Newell.

Minutes from the meeting of December 8, 2008 were distributed and accepted as read.

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

Director's Report: Distributed and accepted as read. Director Oles stated she is still working on the sound system order.

Treasurer's Report: Distributed and accepted as read.

Old Business: Director Oles submitted the 2009 budget and it was discussed.

New Business: Director Oles stated that the water aerobics and swimming program will no longer be held at the Wellesley Inn and she is looking into other venues such as the YMCA and the Dive Shop. Commissioner O'Leary congratulated Treasurer Lou Walsh on her appointment to the commission.

Miscellaneous (Good of the Order): None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. by Chairman Barney. Next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 9, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay H. Visconti
Secretary, Commission on Aging

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK



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Commissioners' Report January 12, 2009

Welcome to a New Year!

There are lots of good things happening to the Bethel Senior Center this year. We have received the grant from the Department of Social Services for the new television and audiovisual equipment. On January 6th we tested a system that the high school uses and it worked great. The high school audiovisual department was very helpful. Between the grant and the capital equipment money for this budget year, we can have a very nice set-up.

Santa Claus (Bethel Youth Athletic Association) also visited us with a very nice check for things we need at the Center. The town has agreed to chip in and help us re-carpet our hallways. We are also going to get a new bench outside, new chairs in the library, and the pool table moved.

Bad weather snowed under our Christmas and New Year's Parties. One hundred and forty people were signed up to come on December 19th to our Christmas Party, which we had to postpone until to December 22. Only 70 attended, but we had a good time. The high school chorus, and our Senior Chorus both sang before lunch and the Ridgefield Seniors Band played for us after lunch. Barbara Cox won the quilt. We had to cancel the New Year's Eve party all together. But we are going to have a New Year/Valentine Party on February 13th. The DJ who was coming for the New Year's Eve Party has agreed to come that day and we are going to have appetizers and Champaign, dancing, lunch and more entertainment. We are going to celebrate everything. Cost \$10.

Coming up next month, we have the Tax Aide program starting on February 4th. This was very popular last year, and will help many people this year.

As of January 4th, we have lost the privilege of doing our water aerobic exercise class in the Wellesley Inn pool. There may be a possibility of taking the classes at the Dive Shop pool in Brookfield. We are also looking for a new Square Dance teacher to take Culver Griffin's place.

We distributed 1,900 newsletters last month. We had an average of 85 people per day at the Center, giving us an overall average for the year of 100/day + 25 people who get Meals on Wheels.

Trips in 2009

Mar. 12	Ace in the Hole-Wearing of the Green - \$73
Mar. 31	Mohegan Sun - \$25
April 15	Monticello - \$27
May 7	Lobsterfest - Platzl Brauhaus - \$70
June 23-25	Summertime in Amish Country - \$379
Aug. 6	Westchester Theatre - Beehive, the 60s Musical - \$80
Oct. 29	Caribbean Cruise - \$1186 and up.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Oles, Director, Bethel Senior Center

Commission on Aging Report – January 12, 2009

The Christmas food deliveries went well. Everyone seemed pleased with the amount and quality of the food. I was unable to get gift cards for seniors this year as I have in the past. There were just not enough to go around. But I was able to give a large print book to many of them in their food baskets.

The Operation fuel program is in full swing now. The income limits have been greatly expanded and we are getting a lot of calls from older residents who might not have been eligible in the past. There remain a lot of glitches in this program as they work it out up in Bloomfield.

I am receiving phone calls from adult children from out of town who are concerned about their elderly parents in their homes in the winter. I am happy to keep in touch with them by phone if they would like me to. I can also refer them to the Friendly Visitor program.

I am also having visits from Medicare beneficiaries who have received advertisements about changing their prescription drug plans this month. Some don't realize that they are sales pitches and that the consumer does not have to take any action if he is satisfied with the coverage that he already has.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathleen Gillen
Bethel Municipal Agent for the Elderly