



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 10, 2014 was called to order at 2:34 p.m. by Chairman Al Barney.

Members present: Commissioners Al Barney, Mary Menti, Barbara Negri, Judy Novachek and Municipal Agent/Director Lisa Plumb. Assistant Director Maureen Decker and Ross Martino a WestConn student, sat in observance.

Minutes from the meeting of January 13, 2014: Distributed. A motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Negri and was seconded by Commissioner Menti. All were in favor.

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

Director's Report: Distributed by Director Lisa Plumb. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Treasurer Novachek and seconded by Commissioner Menti. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Distributed by Treasurer Novachek. A motion to accept the report was made by Chairman Barney and seconded by Commissioner Negri. All were in favor.

Old Business: Director Plumb stated that she would like to establish a sub-committee to work on the FISH program. She suggested herself, Assistant Director Decker and Commissioner Novachek.

- Chairman Barney inquired about the ongoing budget process. Director Plumb stated that First Selectman Knickerbocker is very supportive of her requests. She needs thirty new chairs and other renovations which she is getting quotes for. Director Plumb is very excited to have everybody see the cafeteria, which has been painted, at the Valentine's party.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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New Business: Director Plumb introduced the new Assistant Director, Maureen Decker to the Commissioners. She received a warm welcome.

- Treasurer Novachek stated that Director Plumb needs to think about distributing the monthly newsletter by email which would cut down on the expense to the Postmaster. Director Plumb said that the printing of the newsletter and buying the labels is also an expense. She stated that she and Assistant Director Decker have already talked about getting the newsletter on line. She feels that more people may be reached if it is on line. Commissioner Negri inquired as to when the newsletter goes out in the mail. Director Plumb stated, "by the fourth week of the month."

- Treasurer Novachek stated that she thinks the Senior Center needs it's own website. Director Plumb said that the Senior Center's page on the town website needs pictures on a regular basis, it needs every party and function announced, etc. Chairman Barney stated that a website needs someone to maintain it on a regular basis. Director Plumb stated that to consider our own website would be something down the line. Treasurer Novachek suggested that the Senior Center needs it's own logo. All agreed. Director Plumb said that the image of the senior center needs to change. Getting on all of the social media sites will help.

- Director Plumb stated that she would like Assistant Director Decker and herself to do some outreach. "There's people out there that need a personal invitation." She has talked about the Senior Center presenting some programs at Reynolds Ridge. Treasurer Novachek suggested doing a video presentation. Director Plumb agreed and will look into recruiting someone to help with that project. "We are the youngest senior center around as far as the age we set for people at 50," stated Director Plumb. It's not just for old people anymore.

Miscellaneous (Good of the Order): None.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. Next scheduled meeting is 2:30 p.m. on **Monday, March 10, 2014.**

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

Commission on Aging

February 10, 2014

OLD BUSINESS

- Lisa Plumb met with Matt Knickerbocker and Bob Koslowski regarding the annual budget. The budget is being prepared to present to the Board of Finance. Quotes are being received regarding the renovation of the bathrooms off of the cafeteria and the ceiling and lighting in the cafeteria. No decision has been made to date regarding these quotes.
- The volunteer group, Triumph, that is doing a community service project at the Senior Center has begun painting the cafeteria. They are painting two colors with a chair rail in the middle. We were hoping to have the room complete to unveil at the Valentine's Party, but two snow days on the days they were scheduled to work have delayed their progress.
The group has been amazing to work with being cooperative, productive and driven to complete the job as soon as possible. The group has ordered the wood for the chair rail and hopes to complete it the week of February 17.
- Attendance has been lower than usual with the extreme cold weather, snow, ice and several snow days. Many have commented they are grateful to get out of the house when coming in after several weeks (or days) off.

NEW BUSINESS

Our newly hired Senior Center Assistant Director began working on Feb. 6, 2014. Maureen Decker is from Bethel and comes to the position with excellent qualifications including computer knowledge, travel planning expertise, and leading programs in various capacities.

One member came to the BSC and brought a casserole that she intended to serve to all of the members. Lisa spoke to her and explained that the Public Health Code prevents us from serving food made in someone's home to the public. She seemed to understand but as the day progressed she became agitated and angry. She visited the Health Department where she was told exactly of the same rule that Lisa had explained to her previously. Lisa met with the Director of Health, Laura Vasile, who agreed to do a presentation at the Senior Center to explain the rule and why it is important as well as give examples of situations that had occurred in our community.

One member mentioned that he and another member had a heated argument. One man asked another to step outside to fight, the other agreed. As the two were leaving they decided not to fight and shook hands. Lisa met with the Commissioner of Aging, Al Barney and Ginger Moore, the Treasurer for the Friends of the Bethel Seniors, stated that there is a Zero Tolerance at the Senior Center and that it needs to be clear that no threats or fighting will be tolerated.

The Titanic show, at the Westchester Dinner Theatre, was cancelled in Feb. due to a low attendance.

The AARP Safe Driving Course was so popular there is 15-20 people on the waiting list for the Feb. class.

The Scrapbooking class was so popular that the participants asked to have it weekly rather than every other week in February.

We are beginning a Beginner's Knitting class in February and a Bridge Workshop in March.

VOLUNTEERS

The Bethel High School volunteers have decided to work every Tuesday rather than every other Tuesday.

A few members have offered to work as volunteers asking to do whatever needs to be done.

ACCIDENTS / INCIDENTS

One woman fell in the hallway outside the Ceramic Studio. The woman fell from having ice shoes on with coils on the bottom. She slid on the coils which are intended to be worn outside.

Respectfully,



Lisa Plumb

Bethel Senior Center Director

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Telephone: 203-792-3048; Fax: 203-744-3812

MUNICIPAL AGENT REPORT

2-10-14

Met with several people regarding senior housing in the area.

Met with one gentleman on 2-7-14 regarding living at the Bishop Curtis home. Lisa followed up with an Administrator from Bishop Curtis homes and they said they would follow up with the person who would handle his concern.

Respectfully,



Lisa Plumb
Municipal Agent

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