



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 November 10, 2014 was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Chairman Al Barney.

Members present: Commissioners Al Barney, Mary Menti, Barbara Negri, Judy Novachek, Kay Visconti and Assistant Director Maureen Decker.

Minutes from the meeting of October 14, 2014: 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 Assistant Director Maureen Decker. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Commissioner Visconti and seconded by Commissioner Menti. All were in favor.

Director's Report: Distributed by Assistant Director Maureen Decker. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Commissioner Negri and seconded by Commissioner Visconti. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: None available.

Old Business: Treasurer Novachek stated that another office is needed for collection of money from members for classes, trips, etc. Chairman Barney stated that we need a common conference room. It was noted that Director Plumb has some plans to perhaps reconfigure the Art Room, Library, Computer Room and what is now being used as the Ceramics Room to glean more space.

- Treasurer Novachek asked Assistant Director Decker how the Christmas party was coming along. She stated, "Good, there are thirty-three signed up already".

- Commissioner Visconti asked Assistant Director Decker if there was anything new regarding updating the computers. She stated "not at this time."

*Received by Record
November 12, 2014
3:37pm
Susan M. Gullerbi*

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New Business: It was noted that Director Plumb has published the 2015 list of trips, parties and events. Commissioner Negri suggested the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut. It was duly noted by Assistant Director Decker.

- Commissioner Negri inquired if anything has been started regarding the new budget. Assistant Director Decker said that they will be working on it this month. Treasurer Novachek suggested filming classes in session as a Power Point presentation at the budget hearing.

Miscellaneous (Good of the Order): None.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. Next scheduled meeting is 2:30 p.m. on **Monday, December 8, 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
Bethel Senior Center Director's Report
11-10-14

OLD BUSINESS

Both the Halloween party and the Veteran's Breakfast were filled to capacity.

There was a new entertainer at the Halloween party. Members seemed to be very impressed by him. He is being booked for two parties next year due to the overwhelming positive response.

The Bethel High students sang at the Veteran's Breakfast. Members enjoyed the students and all agreed they did a great job.

We continue to collect recipes for our cookbook which will serve as a fundraiser. The recipes are slow coming in.

Our Monday matinee movies are growing in participation. Members enjoy coming and appreciate a free movie and snacks. We are considering charging a minimal fee for snacks in the coming year.

NEW BUSINESS

Our Massage Therapist has unfortunately given her resignation. She was well liked and flexible with her schedule to accommodate the members ever-changing schedules. We are presently looking for a replacement. We have a male massage therapist hired on a per diem basis, however many of our female members prefer a female massage therapist.

Our New England tour was a big success. Members seemed to like a short trip (2 days) and a reasonable fee. The criticism on the trip was that there was a lot of walking for some members and that the Kittery outlets were too spread apart for some members and the Keene Pumpkin Festival was exceptionally crowded this year, announcing record number of people. There was a riot at the Keene Pumpkin Festival that became national news. Luckily for us, the members were not effected in any way by the riot that occurred a few streets away from the festival and at the festival after the members had left.

We sponsored an Apple Pie Contest in October to try and motivate members to bake pies for the upcoming fair. The response was minimal. The winner of the best pie was Judy Novachek and the winner of the Most Attractive Pie was Joan Stietzel. Both have agreed to bake pies for the fair.

Members suggested last year that the senior center bake pies for the fair this year. Because there has been little or no response we will allow members to bake pies at their home and bring them in for sale, similar to the bake sale.

The rugs in the Activity Room and hallway were cleaned. There were several large stains in both areas and all stains have been removed.

Lisa Plumb spoke to Matt Knickerbocker, First Selectman, and confirmed that the day after Thanksgiving and the day after Christmas (a Friday) the senior center will be closed.

The newsletter is now available on line. Maureen Decker is updating the website regularly and announcing special events.

We are advertising programs regularly on the Comcast community access station on tv. It has been helpful in drawing several people in for programs that do not read the senior column in the newspaper or that receive our newsletter.

The office is exceptionally busy with members signing in for classes, signing up for special programs and trips, and giving tours. It has been a problem to find an area to have a private conversation with members concerning confidential information.

We are having a meeting to train and organize a group of volunteers from the senior center for special events and projects. The meeting is scheduled for 11/17.

The Coat Drive is underway. People are donating coats and several people have come in to take coats.

We are starting a Men's Breakfast in November to encourage the men to visit the senior center and socialize. The Men's Breakfast is scheduled the 2nd Thursday of the month and is \$2.

The Bethel Police approached Lisa about giving a presentation to the members about the existing Police Station and the proposed new Police Station. They will be in Nov. 21 at 11 am prior to the Lunch & Learn program. They will have a schedule of tours of the old Police Station.

The organ, broken table and broken chair from the hallway has been removed. The hallway will be painted in the future.

There has been a good response to the Caring for the Caregiver group. The group can be emotional for members. Strategies are given for coping with various issues. The members attending have been very appreciative of the group. The group presently has 8 participants.

We had a concern with a member that is confused at times. The member was lost at the Senior Center several times needing assistance finding a classroom, the bathroom and cafeteria for lunch. She was found wandering the halls unaware of which direction to go to get to her destination. The member argued with a classroom instructor frustrating the instructor to the point where the instructor left the classroom and asked Lisa to intervene. The member's husband was called. It was suggested this member return with a companion or private aide to assist her throughout the day. The husband called the BSC and was very grateful for the suggestion. The member has adjusted well with the assistance of her private companion.

A member telephoned the BSC 8 times regarding an motor vehicle accident she had after leaving the senior center. She was told the senior center is not responsible for accidents in a public parking lot or on a public road. She told staff she injured her back and her friend's back (that was a passenger) and damaged her car.

VOLUNTEERS

2 regular volunteers: 1 adult; 1 student with a Job Coach.

ACCIDENTS

None reported.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Plumb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lisa Plumb
Bethel Senior Center Director

BETHEL SENIOR CENTER

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center

1 School Street, Bethel, CT. 06801

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

Municipal Agent Report

11-10-14

Lisa Plumb met with a few people regarding the Open Enrollment period for Medicare. Several referrals were made to Bill Caron.

Lisa visited a woman in her home regarding assistance programs. The Bethel resident has impaired judgment, is in need of assistance in many areas, and is a safety risk in her home. The concerns were reported to the Department of Social Services and the Protective Services for the Elderly. Lisa had a difficult time reporting the information as the telephone numbers listed were referring people to a number which in turn referred the caller to the original number. A third number had over a one hour waiting period before you could speak to a live person. Lisa telephoned a Supervisor and was given a Case Worker who is involved with this Bethel resident and currently has an "open file". Lisa emphasized that in her opinion this woman is cognitively impaired and that she is a risk to herself in her home. The case worker responded she was well aware of her deficits and they were trying to set her up with programs to allow her to stay in her home.

Three calls were received from members that would like to receive baskets from the Brotherhood in Action during the holidays. One of our members took it upon herself to publish in a Bethel Senior Housing complex's newsletter to have people call if they would like free food from the Brotherhood in Action, and to call the Bethel Senior Center to register. This organization's purpose is to provide food for the most needy in our community, not to simply to give out food to anyone that would like free food. The person that published the article in the newsletter was spoken to. The situation was explained to her. She stated, "she'll never do that again!".

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Plumb
Municipal Agent

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Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Plumb
Municipal Agent