

**COMMISSION ON THE AGING
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812**

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

February 24, 2009

A regular meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday February 24, 2009 at the New Fairfield Senior Sunshine Center. Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

Present: Maureen Salerno, Chair, Bob Alberetti, Kathy Hull, and Katy Johannssen..

Also present from the Friends of the Senior Center and the Senior Center Advisory Committee: Jaye Anderson, Rita Lendore, JoAnn Gallagher, and Mary K. Smith.

Absent: Cindy LaCour, Vice Chair, Roberta Ilardo, Janet Loya, and Jeannette Sweeney

NEW BUSINESS:

Joint Meeting with the Friends of the Senior Center and the Senior Center Advisory Committee

Maureen Salerno opened the meeting with introductions. Kathy Hull reported the Advisory Committee is going through a self assessment process in an effort to have the Senior Center accredited by the National Council on Aging. This accreditation is valid for 5 years and there are approximately 30 Senior Centers throughout Connecticut that are accredited. From now until the middle of May Kathy Hull will be working with some students from West Conn who are in the Social Work fields. These students will be creating and working with focus groups to help with the self assessment process. The findings of the focus groups will be shared with the Commission on the Aging. The cost for the accreditation is not in the budget and the Senior Center will raise this money through the Friends of the Senior Center”.

Maureen Salerno stated the COA is committed to helping senior citizens stay in their homes. We are in the process of producing a Service Provider Directory and we have held a Community Forum on Housing. Discussion followed on the work Tom Dube is doing with the Lutheran Church and the difficulty they are having in purchasing the required 5 acres of land. Further discussion focused on Small Cities Grants and how they can help pay for repairs to homes with low or no interest loans. May is Older Americans Month. Please let Maureen Salerno know if you are thinking of nominating anyone.

Kathy Hull reported on the New Senior Center. Due to some unforeseen issues there isn't enough money left in the budget for furniture, equipment, signs, and a flagpole. The furniture in the current Senior Center is approximately 30 years old and was already used when they received it. Discussion followed on putting an appeal out to the Community to raise funds for the new furniture and equipment and how to recognize donors. The Friends of the Senior Center are continuing to do fundraising. Kathy Hull has been working with WB Mason on this issue to receive the best possible price. After everything is settled Kathy Hull would like to have a Grand Opening for the new Senior Center that is open to the entire community, hoping this will give the entire community, not just seniors a sense of ownership.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MINUTES:

Bob Alberetti made a motion to accept the Minutes to the February 24, 2009 meeting 2nd by Kathy Hull, vote 4-0.

ADJOURN:

Bob Alberetti made a motion to adjourn at 7:56pm, 2nd by Kathy Hull, vote 4-0.