

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

MINUTES

Meeting

April 26, 2011

A regular meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday April 26, 2011 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

Present: Maureen Salerno, Chair, Kathy Hull, Jeannette Sweeney, Bob Alberetti, Janet Loya and Katy Johannssen.

Absent: Cindy LaCour, Vice Chair, and Roberta Ilardo

Guest: Mike Daood, Planning Commission Chairman

Elevation of Alternates:

Jeannette Sweeney was elevated to full voting status.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW BUSINESS

Maureen Salerno stated she would like to change the order of the Agenda so that Mike Daood, Chair of the Planning Commission can discuss the Plan of Conservation & Development.

1. Discussion with the Planning Commission, 2003 Plan of Conservation and Development (C&D Plan)

Mike Daood stated the Planning Commission is in the process of updating the 2003 Plan of Conservation and Development. The State has mandated them to update this plan every 10 years. He is welcoming any and all feedback including feedback that is outside the realm the COA has historically played in this matter. Moving forward the C&D Plan should have a long term strategy with short term implications. The Planning Commission although they are bound by the subdivision regulations which are subject to changes and updates they are looking at such things as sustainable energy and networking for home offices.

The COA discussed the Lutheran Church has been looking to purchase land for the purpose of constructing elderly housing and while they only need 5 acres of land, that land seems hard to come by because no one is willing to sell it to them for this purpose. There are not many condos in Town and none of them are rentals. Discussion focused on Dunham Ponds Condominiums. The developer has gone bankrupt and the current owner, Union Savings Bank has created a wholly owned subsidiary, Somers Development to oversee this project which doesn't seem to be going very far. The Bank's attorney is Thomas Van Lenten of Pinney & Payne, Danbury CT. The Town is trying to be supportive to the Bank. Perhaps the Lutheran Church should contact John Hodge and or the attorney for Union Savings Bank to see if they can construct the senior housing there. Further discussion followed noting the Planning Commission is waiting to hear back from the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) regarding sewers in the heart of town and perhaps the COA can get on the WPCA's Agenda.

Mike Daood wrapped things up by discussing sidewalks and open space needs. He would like all feedback in writing either via email or in a hard copy format. There was discussion about having an on line survey on the Planning Commission's website.

MINUTES:

Kathy Hull made a motion to accept the Minutes to the March 29, 2011 meeting as amended, 2nd by Bob Alberetti vote 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Evaluations The Cost of Aging, Who Pays and How

Approximately 75 people attended this program and the Commission discussed the feedback they received which was mostly positive. Many of the surveys indicated the public liked the time of the program as well as they would like more of this type of program. Most of the evaluation forms came back.

2. Older Americans Month:

May is Older Americans Month. The May 24 meeting will start at 7pm. Maureen Salerno has invited area clergy to attend this meeting to help address the needs of senior citizens in New Fairfield. Further discussion focused on putting up sandwich type signs at the Senior Center and the Library stating May is Older Americans Month.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

2 Senior Center Report

Kathy Hull handed out the Senior Center Report and discussed the attendance and number of meals served. The Youth Commission donated their time to do the landscaping and John Wolf donated sod and plantings.

Priska Ellenberg has bequeathed \$60,000 to the Senior Center. Discussion focused on the Senior Center is a Town owned building and the money should not be spent on maintaining the building which includes but is not limited to lighting, heating and air

conditioning and salaries. There are no overhead lights outside the front foyer to light up the entrance way and the small lantern lights offer very poor lighting. The lights do not come on in the evenings or even in the late afternoons in the winter when it gets dark early. This is a huge liability for the Town. Steve Merullo needs to be contacted in writing and cc John Hodge. If the work is not done then another request must be made indicating this is the 2nd request and noting the Town's liability. Further discussion focused on line items in the budget. Recommendations need to be made to the Town at budget time regarding indicating what matters need to be addressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The May 24 meeting will start at 7pm.

ADJOURN:

Janet Loya made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm 2nd by Bob Alberetti vote 6-0.