

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

MINUTES

Meeting

August 23, 2011

A regular meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday August 23, 2011 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Cindy LaCour called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

Present: Maureen Salerno, Chair, Cindy LaCour, Vice Chair, Janet Loya, Kathy Hull, Jeannette Sweeney, and Katy Johannssen

Absent: Stephanie Shaughnessy Bob Alberetti, and Roberta Ilardo

Elevation of Alternates:

Jeannette Sweeney was elevated to full voting status.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Letter from the Planning Commission dated 6/24/2011 thanking boards and commissions for their feed back
- Letter from the Planning Commission dated 6/26/2011 stating Cynthia Ross-Zweig is their new chairman and Mike Daood will continue on the commission as vice chairman.
- Cindy LaCour attended the Planning Commission meeting on July 25 noting although other board and commission members were invited the meeting was not interactive with the Planning Commission discussing amongst themselves and guests just listening.

MINUTES:

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adopt the Minutes to the June 28, 2011 Minutes as presented, 2nd by Kathy Hull vote 5-1-0. Maureen Salerno abstained, all others were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Transportation:

Maureen Salerno, Jeannette Sweeney, and Kathy Hull attended a meeting with the Housatonic Regional Transit Board to discuss fare increases for the Sweet Hart Bus. The Sweet Hart Bus has not had a fare increase for 20 years and discussion focused on the rates increasing from the current 60 cents to \$1.00 per ride, noting some Towns pay \$2.50 a ride. Although this is a large increase it is still less expensive than owning a car and paying for gas and insurance. The sentiment from other people who attended the meeting

is that cuts are on the backs of seniors. The rate increase will be voted on at their next meeting. Len Russell is the New Fairfield representative for the Housatonic Regional Transit Board and the Commission would like to follow up with him. It is uncertain if services will be cut because they did not receive the requested fare increases from the Town. Approximately 18 people use the bus on a regular weekly basis to come to and from the Senior Center. Further discussion focused on why people don't utilize the Sweet Hart Bus is because it is not convenient and that people in today's world are used to conveniences. Cindy LaCour contacted Ellen Melville in Brookfield to discuss how they operate their FISH program and will have to contact her again in September. Sherman also has a FISH program.

2. Housing:

The Montessori School in Washington CT moved to a new building. The Housing Trust refurbished the old school building and made it into apartments. Discussion followed the Housing Trust had been started by the churches. They purchas blighted buildings, fix them up and rent them out or rent them out with the option to buy. Tom Dube and his son had been working with the Lutheran Church to purchase property for the purpose of elderly housing. Some of the members tried to contact Tom Dube and his son regarding the Dunham Ponds property, but were unsuccessful. Kathy Hull will look into contacting Lynn Hamilton and Phase 2 of Dunham Ponds.

3. Next Community Forum:

The Commission discussed the best topic for the next community forum would be housing. Perhaps Brooks Temple can come back. The community forum will be held in the spring with April 2012 as a tentative date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Senior Center Report

Kathy Hull reported. The Senior Center recently held a program entitled "Should I Stay or Should I Go". This was an informational program designed to help seniors decide if they should continue living in their homes or if they should sell. Attendance was down from last year, noting the Senior Center was open one less day than last year. September is National Senior Center Month. Each week the Senior Center will feature 2 or 3 seniors in the Citizen News about what they do at the Senior Center. September 25 thru October 1 is International Active Aging Week. The Senior Center will be celebrating by making all exercise classes free for that week. Discussion focused on some of the activities that will take place. September 28 is National Women's Fitness Day and they will be offering a New Balance Fitness Class that day. Curves will be closing and the Senior Center will be actively advertising their exercise classes to the Curves patrons. Alex will not be doing the Medicare Choices program this year as he will be staying in Florida.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURN:

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm 2nd by Kathy Hull vote 6-0