

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

MINUTES

Meeting

December 4 2012

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday December 4, 2012 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, Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, Kathy Hull, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Janet Loya, Jeannette Sweeney, Bob Alberetti and Roberta Ilardo

Absent: Katy Johannssen

MINUTES:

Cindy LaCour made a motion to accept the Minutes to the October 23, 2012 meeting as presented, 2nd by Kathy Hull, vote 8-0 unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Maureen Salerno expressed her gratitude to Cindy LaCour for chairing the October meeting.
- There will be an affordable housing forum in Norwalk CT on December 12.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Promoting Early Literacy/Community Conversation Early Literacy Program

The United Way is presenting a program entitled "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library". This program is funded by a grant from the Dolly Parton Foundation and is geared towards children from birth to age 5. These children will receive a new age appropriate book every month in the mail. The COA discussed how to get the children and the Senior Center together for the purpose of reading books and promoting literacy. Some of the ideas included reaching out to the area pre-schools and having them bring the children in once a week. The Commission will continue to brain storm on creative ideas for this project. Roberta Ilardo noted that she distributed literature and spoke to some of the area pre-schools about the program, but it did not seem to be a big hit.

2. Affordable Housing Survey:

Approximately 345 surveys have been returned including all of the area churches with the exception of the Lutheran Church who we have not heard from. Kathy Hull will give us the survey results which we will then publish in the Citizen News.

3. Next Community Forum:

The next community forum will be on Saturday April 27, 2013. The title will be "Aging in Place, Gains and Losses". The guest speaker will be Dr. Charles Herrick.

4. New Fairfield Housing Trust

The New Fairfield housing Trust is making very nice progress. Maureen Salerno will meet with them later this week and will report back with any new developments. Further discussion focused on the status of Sherman's affordable senior housing and it was noted that there is a lot of negativity from the Sherman 1st Selectman; however they did receive an appropriation to move forward with starting some preliminary groundwork such as getting an A2 Survey.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Senior Center Report:

Kathy Hull reported. Judy is not back to work yet, however she has finished chemo therapy and is starting to recover. Last October the Senior Center was closed for 2 days and this October the Senior Center was closed for 4 days. Although during both years the Senior Center was used as a shelter due to storms and they were open 24/7, those days are not counted. Kathy Hull's duties seem to include Shelter Director as well as Senior Center Director, and perhaps she should be compensated for her time since she was at the Senior Center during both storms 24/7. Discussion followed.

2. 2013 Meeting Dates:

The 2013 meeting dates were discussed as outlined. The Commission will continue to meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month except where noted.

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm 2nd by Kathy Hull. Vote 8-0 unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jeannette Sweeney's term is up next month and Bob Alberetti is looking to step down. If anyone knows of someone who is interested in fulfilling these positions, please let Maureen Salerno know.