

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

MINUTES

Meeting

May 22 2012

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday May 22 2012 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Cindy LaCour called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

Present: Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, Janet Loya, Bob Alberetti, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Kathy Hull, Katy Johannssen, and Roberta Ilardo

Absent: Maureen Salerno, Chair and Jeannette Sweeney

MINUTES:

Janet Loya made a motion to accept the Minutes to the April 24, 2012 meeting as presented, 2nd by Stephanie Shaughnessy, Vote 6-0-1, Kathy Hull abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Housing Connections will host a program “Affordable Housing Network” in Norwalk on Tuesday June 12 from 5-6:30.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Sherman Housing Meeting:

The Sherman Housing Meeting will be on Saturday June 9. An article ran in the Citizen News about this, however, details such as time and place still have not been given out. Cindy LaCour will contact Jeanette Pearlman regarding this matter. The Commission would like to support Sherman in their affordable housing efforts by attending this meeting.

2. Update New Fairfield Housing Trust:

The next meeting for the New Fairfield Housing Trust is Thursday June 21 at 7pm in the Senior Center. Please let Maureen Salerno or Cindy LaCour know if you would like to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Affordable Housing Survey:

Maureen Salerno and Cindy LaCour put together a survey that will be sent to all of New Fairfield seniors and would like feedback from the Commission. The survey will be sent to approximately 4,500 households. This number came from the Registrar of Voters. Discussion followed if this survey would be going to all residents or just citizens over the age of 60. It was noted that the population of New Fairfield is approximately 14,000 so this number of 4,500 households may represent all citizens. Cindy LaCour will look into this when Maureen Salerno gets back from vacation.

The Commission discussed adding a few questions to the survey. Question #4 will be Do you have any concerns regarding this issue. If so what are your concerns? Question 4A will read If you have concerns, would you be willing to meet and discuss your concerns at a meeting?

The Commission discussed putting the survey on the Town website or using a survey website such as Survey Monkey. The pros and cons of an internet survey were discussed. The Commission would have no way of emailing the survey to residents. Advertising in the paper would open the survey up to the general public expanding beyond New Fairfield. If the survey was on a website, it would be open to everyone and not just New Fairfield residents or seniors. While Survey Monkey can limit the reply to just one response per email, many seniors are not internet savvy and the ones who do go on the internet often share an email address with their spouse so limiting the number of responses per email may not be feasible. Mailing the survey to residents is costly and time consuming, noting there may not be money in the budget. If the survey was mailed the Commission could either have the surveys mailed back to Town Hall or have drop boxes located at Town Hall, the library, Stop N Shop, Village Hardware, and Candlewood Pharmacy. The secretary will get the contact information from the post office regarding bulk mailing. Also since this is the end of the fiscal year, it may be a good idea to check with the 1st Selectman if there is any money left in the budget that can be used for postage? The Commission will have to act quickly on this.

2. Senior Center Report:

Kathy Hull distributed the Senior Center Report for April 2012 and discussion followed. Kathy Hull will look into any errors on the April 2011 report vs. April 2012. The Commission questioned why the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) hours were down considerably. Kathy Hull explained that a local committee called Community Action Committee has taken over RSVP, which was the national program and they no longer count all of the hours. They only count hours for "Impact Positions"; however they did not give the definition of an "Impact Position." Kathy Hull feels that all volunteer positions are impact positions in some shape or form and she is keeping track of all of the hours that go through her. The Community Action Committee does not communicate well not only with the New Fairfield Senior Center, but with all of the area senior centers. The Community Action Center did have a meeting with the area senior center directors; however, the meeting went so poorly that some of the area senior center directors had to walk out of the meeting. Additionally the Community Action Committee has not been very friendly towards the area senior centers.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pay as you go classes at the Senior Center were discussed.

ADJOURN:

Bob Alberetti made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm 2nd by Cindy LaCour.
Vote 7-0 unanimous.