

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

MINUTES

Meeting

September 25 2012

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday September 25, 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, Jeannette Sweeney, Janet Loya, Bob Alberetti, Roberta Ilardo, and Katy Johannssen

Absent: Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, Kathy Hull, and Stephanie Shaughnessy

MINUTES:

Bob Alberetti made a motion to accept the Minutes to the July 24, 2012 meeting as presented, 2nd by Katy Johannssen, vote 6-0 unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OLD BUSINESS

1. Affordable Housing Survey:

The response to the survey has been very good. Out of 1,000 surveys over 300 have come back, and most of them are in favor of affordable senior housing. Surveys still need to be picked up from the Congregational Church and the Lutheran Church. Discussion focused on some of the comments that were on the surveys such as "I have been a long time New Fairfield resident and I would have loved to stay in New Fairfield, if this type of housing had been offered, and those who are not in need of affordable senior housing for themselves, but have a family member who would benefit from this type of housing.

The Commission discussed zoning regulations and available land. Someone had contacted the Senior Center regarding 2 ½ acres on Shortwoods Road, for what was owed on the mortgage, however zoning regulations state 5 acres are required and adjacent land is not available. Further discussion focused on the topography of Shortwoods Road and the availability of town owned land.

2. Next Community Forum:

The Commission discussed that it is too late in the year to start planning a fall community forum and will hold a spring community forum, on Saturday April 27, 2013. This forum

will be a continuation of the Commission's "Aging in Place" series. The focus will be on the quality of life and the psychological effects of aging such as isolation, living alone or with family, and declining health. A possible title may be "Aging in Place, Gains and Losses". Discussion focused on having one main speaker and some panelists, perhaps Joan Garbo and Kendal Paladino as panelists. Perhaps Mt. Sinai or UConn have centers for aging. Discussion focused on what the audience will walk away with. Is it identifying their own personal strengths and finding peace within such as what is their own personal sanctuary. Is it offering strategies or techniques to deal with losses, or is it you have to redefine your own personal core. Some of these ideas may be dealt with better in small groups rather than a larger audience. Further discussion focused on the speaker and panelist doing pro bono work.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Senior Center Report:

Tabled

Bob Alberetti made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm 2nd by Katy Johannssen.
Vote 6-0 unanimous.