

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

MINUTES

Meeting

October 28, 2014

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday October 28, 2014 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

Present: Maureen Salerno, Chair, Julia MacMillan, Roberta Ilardo, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Jeannette Sweeney, Janet Loya, and Kathy Hull

Absent: Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, and Katy Johannssen

MINUTES:

Julia MacMillan made a motion to accept the Minutes to the August 26, 2014 meeting as presented, 2nd by Roberta Ilardo, vote 4-0-3. Maureen Salerno, Janet Loya, and Jeannette Sweeney abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fall Community Forum "A Community Forum on Elderly Housing"

There was a good turnout of around 40-50 people. Evonne Klein, Commissioner Dept. of Housing, addressed many issues such as declining property values with facts and spoke of her own affordable housing experience as Selectman in Darien. Discussion followed on the handouts that Evonne Klein had left with statistics and myths surrounding affordable housing. Catherine Bacharach from Kent was very informative. The people applying for the affordable elderly housing were mostly residents. Those who were not residents were from nearby towns such as New Fairfield, New Milford, and Sherman. The Commission further discussed an article in the Citizen News regarding senior affordable housing should not be near schools. The consensus of the Commission is that it is best not to reply to these sorts of articles.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On Going Senior Needs Assessment:

The Commission would like to discuss other senior needs and perhaps get information out to them about services that are available now such as Pea Pod by Stop N Shop, and Candlewood Drugs deliveries.

During the Community Forum on Housing some residents inquired about what can be done now to reduce their taxes? There had been unsuccessful attempts in the past to give tax breaks. Currently tax breaks are available for veterans, elderly and disabled, but it is income based. The Commission discussed the range of taxes that a resident could pay in New Fairfield. Perhaps it isn't just about the taxes, perhaps it is the cost of living and upkeep on the home compounded by taxes, noting taxes are not what they were 20 years ago. At what point do you decide you can no longer afford this home? Maureen Salerno will contact John Hodge to see what happened with the last attempt to reduce taxes for senior residents.

The Commission will have an informal chat entitled "Come Chat with COA on Senior Issues". The members will take turns going to the Senior Center on a weekly basis to chat with elderly residents about their concerns. Maureen Salerno can be there on Mondays, Janet Loya can be there on Tuesdays, and Roberta Ilardo can be there on Wednesdays.

2. Senior Center Report:

Kathy Hull handed out the Senior Center Report. Some of the highlights are Hot Dog Bingo, Foot Reflexology, and Laugh & Learn Nutrition for Seniors. The exercise classes are bringing in some new faces. Over 100 Flu shots were given out.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The next meeting will be Tuesday Dec. 2, 2014.

ADJOURN:

Julia MacMillan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03: p.m., 2nd by Roberta Ilardo, vote 5-0 unanimous.