

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

MINUTES

Meeting

June 23, 2015

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday June 23, 2015 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, Roberta Ilardo, Kathy Hull, Katy Johannssen, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Julia MacMillan, Janet Loya, and Jeannette Sweeney

Absent: Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman

MINUTES:

Roberta Ilardo made a motion to accept the Minutes to the April 28, 2015 meeting as presented, 2nd by Kathy Hull, Vote 8-0, unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update May Older Americans Month

Al Mardis was the recipient of this year's recognition of Outstanding Senior. Al Mardis was extremely touched to receive such recognition. Al Mardis has spent much of his time donating his time talents to the community. He currently volunteers on the New Fairfield Housing Trust and writes articles for the Citizen News giving updates on their progress and addressing issues and concerns people may have. He volunteers his time to help seniors complete their tax returns. In prior years he served on the New Fairfield Land Trust and was a member of the New Fairfield Public Building Committee (PBC) and helped to get the new Senior Center built. The luncheon was held at the Senior Center on May 12. The Citizen News ran a very nice article recognizing all of his accomplishments.

2. Next Community Forum:

The next community forum will be held on Saturday November 7. Some possible titles are "Aging in Place is not for Sissies", "\$\$\$The Cost of Aging in Place\$\$\$", or "Aging in Place is not what you Think". The target audience will be seniors who are there now. Discussion followed as to why elders chose to age in their homes; even when they are no longer able to keep it up. Possible reasons are fear of change, they are comfortable in their own homes, or they become disoriented in a new place. Often times they do not realize they are isolating themselves when they do this. Further discussion focused on why they do not come and talk

to the town's social worker, Cindy White, and why they do not take advantage of the housing rehabilitation grant with Lisa Low & Assoc., which is a low interest loan that does not have to be paid back until they sell their homes. Some reasons may be they are too proud to ask for help, they are embarrassed of their situation, or they may not know there are programs in place. Further discussion focused on it is their right and responsibility to know what is out there for them.

Homework for the Commission will be to think of a possible title for the program which will decide what the 3 R's are. Your Rights, Responsibility, Resilience, Resources. Additionally to think of what kind of speaker to have to address these needs.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Senior Center Report:

The total number of attendance is 1,677 and the average daily attendance was 84 people. The Senior Center was open for a total of 20 days. Mike Esposito did his Senior Enrichment Experience (SEE) project at the Senior Center. Mike and his father recreated a home theater in a room at the Senior Center. Mike Esposito needs to submit a budget to be approved by the BOS & BOF. If the town does not approve the expenditure, the items will be donated. Chair dancing is very popular and the annual picnic will be tomorrow. Rosemary Jones will be doing a fraud and abuse program. The Senior Center is working on their float for the July 4th parade, noting this is the 275th anniversary of New Fairfield.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJUOURN:

Janet Loya made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm 2nd by Katy Johannssen, Vote 8-0, unanimous.