

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

MINUTES

Meeting

June 28, 2016

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday June 28, 2016 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Cindy LaCour called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. This meeting will be a networking meeting with the Friends of the Senior Center and the Senior Center Advisory Committee. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

Present: Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, Kathy Hull, Roberta Ilardo, Katy Johannssen

Absent: Maureen Salerno, Chair, Stephanie Shaughnessy, Janet Loya, Julia MacMillan, and Jeannette Sweeney

Friends of the Senior Center: Margaret Hary and Dirk Fernandez

Senior Center Advisory Committee: Diane Gucker

MINUTES:--Tabled

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Thank you card from Linda Decker

NEW BUSINESS

1. Networking with the Friends of the Senior Center and the Senior Center Advisory Committee:

The newest members of the Friends of the Senior Center and the Senior Center Advisory Committee attended the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief background as to why they are here tonight.

The State of Connecticut charges the Commission on Aging with meeting the needs of the senior citizens in our town. This Commission regularly reaches out to other area groups and organizations to make sure that we are reaching as many senior citizens as possible.

Several years ago, a prior Commission sent out a survey and this Commission tallied the results. Based on the survey results the COA has hosted a variety of Community Forums geared toward the needs of seniors. Some of these forums are Aging in Place, I Can't Wait to Retire or Can I?, a Handy Man Guide, Heart Health with Dr. Joseph Frolkis and several

Community Forums on affordable senior housing. Out of one of these forums, the New Fairfield Housing Trust was formed.

Discussion followed on the different fund raising events the Friends of the Senior Center sponsor and how they help with different activities. They sponsor the Penny Social, several tag sales, and Mother's Day Plant Sale. In the past they have donated refreshments for the COA's Community Forums or have been a sponsor.

The Senior Center Advisory Committee gives guidance on how a Senior Center should operate and researches Senior Centers all over the country. The New Fairfield Senior Center is not an accredited Senior Center because of the exorbitant cost with applying for accreditation. However, the Advisory Committee has had the New Fairfield Senior Center go through rigorous steps and training that are the same as an accredited Senior Center. These steps have helped to make the Senior Center a better place.

2. Senior Center Report:

Kathy Hull reported. Attendance is significantly up from last year. Approximately 70 more meals were served this May than last May. Joyce and Saul Saltman will hold a cooking class on July 19, called "Fun with Cooking".

The Brookfield Senior Center has just started charging an annual fee of \$20 for non residents. Discussion followed if this was legal or not. Some Senior Centers charge \$100 a year to residents. This data comes from the Senior Centers software program "My Senior Center".

The Senior Center is a congregate meal site and receives federal funding for this; because of such, they cannot turn away anyone over 60. The money comes from the Older Americans Act and can only be used for senior citizens. As of June 1, and without advanced notice, they found out through the CT Area on Aging that Meals on Wheels will no longer be delivering meals on Wednesdays. Kathy Hull and her staff have been scrambling to serve pizza and salad on these Wednesdays but often fall short of funds since the suggested donation is only \$2.00. It is only the Senior Centers in Western CT that have been effected by this sudden reduction in meals. All of the other areas in Connecticut seem to have their full meals delivered. Questions arose if a meal program can be legally shut down or significantly reduced, especially without prior warning.

Additionally Kathy Hull was informed this week that Community Solutions just let their driver go and they would no longer be receiving the day old bread and fresh vegetables that local stores such as Stew Leonard's, BJ's, and Costco donate. The COA felt strongly that this needed to be addressed and will be on our next Agenda. Cindy LaCour will contact Debbie Hynd at Community Solutions tomorrow. It is believed they are based in Waterbury, CT.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURN:

Cindy LaCour adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm