

Commission on Aging
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, April 18, 2011

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, April 18, 2011 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Thomas Dwyer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Thomas Dwyer, Karin Aurelia, Carol Mattegat, Curt Symes, Sheila Torres.

Members Excused: LeReine Frampton, Mary Ellen Lydem, Joan Plouffe, Anna Wiedemann.

Member Absent: James Bernardi.

Support & Advisory Present: Marilyn Place, Director of Senior Services; Ann Piccini, Municipal Agent for the Elderly; John Aurelia and Bob Sharpe of the Senior Action Committee.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None noted.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. None noted

MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2011 MEETING. Mr. Dwyer suggested that the minutes be corrected to show that the vans referred to under the heading **New Senior Center Van** are only available for sale to "governmental organizations" (not "civic organizations") and are in "as is" condition (not "excellent condition"). Upon motion of Mrs. Mattegat the minutes were unanimously accepted but amended in accordance with Mr. Dwyer's suggestion.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Mrs. Aurelia distributed copies of the March 2011 Senior Services Year-To-Date Budget Report, the March 2011 Senior Services Trip Report and a report of recent activity in the COA Gift Fund, all of which were prepared by the Finance Department and are attached to the original minutes. She suggested that the practice of giving a separate copy of the monthly Senior Services Budget Reports and Trip Reports to each commissioner at our meetings be discontinued and instead, one copy be circulated at the meetings for all to review. She pointed out that the COA has no control over the budget and that the Trip Account simply holds money paid in advance for senior center sponsored trips. Mrs. Mattegat moved that Mrs. Aurelia's suggestion be approved; seconded by Mrs. Torres and unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT. Mrs. Place distributed her report for the period March 22, 2011 to April 18, 2011 (copy attached to the original minutes) and after giving a general review she made particular mention of Richard Clark's performance of "Atticus" at the Senior Center on April 12th which was paid for by the COA's Gift Fund. She said that it was extremely well received, so much so that several attendees made donations to the Gift Fund totaling \$30.00.

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY REPORT. Mrs. Piccini distributed a report of her office's activities since the our last meeting (copy attached to the original minutes) and reviewed it with the commissioners noting particularly that Operation Fuel is out of funds, something that has not occurred in several years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

New Senior Center. Mr. Dwyer referred to the draft of his letter to the Fairfield Hills Master Plan Committee and Fairfield Hills Authority regarding our interest in having a stand alone senior center situated on the Fairfield Hills campus which he had emailed to the commissioners on April 8th. He thanked those who had responded and confirmed having made changes suggested by several before sending it out on April 19th.

New Senior Center Van. Mrs. Place stated that because the used vans she reported on at last month's meeting come "as is" she is now considering buying one that Trinity College in Hartford has on lease which is supposedly in excellent condition and would cost around \$25,000 as opposed to an estimated \$50,000 for a new one. The lease expires on August 1st and is not being renewed. She plans to have the town's mechanic inspect it before proceeding further and has been in touch with the Finance Director and Public Works Director regarding procedures to be followed when purchasing town owned vehicles. Mr. Symes said that he plans to be in Hartford in the near future and will look at the van. Mrs. Place and Mr. Dwyer expect to meet with First Selectman Llodra prior to our next meeting to request town funding of its purchase. In the meantime Mr. Dwyer will email a copy of the van's specifications to the commissioners.

Open Positions. Mr. Dwyer reminded the commissioners that the COA currently needs two more members and he was pleased to note that the First Selectman's office has been placing monthly notices in the Bee of openings on town boards and commissions. Our openings are for Alternate Members with one available to any registered voter; the other to any registered voter other than a Republican

NEW BUSINESS.

Nunnawauk Meadows. Mr. Dwyer noted that Frank DeLucia recently retired as Director of Nunnawauk Meadows and has been replaced by Linda Manganaro who is a former member of the COA. In view of Mr. DeLuca's involvement with the elderly of Newtown for over 30 years (he founded the Commission on Aging) he proposed sending him a letter inviting him to join the COA. He also proposed inviting Mrs. Manganaro to address the commission at a future meeting on the subject of affordable housing for the elderly in Newtown. Mr. Dwyer's proposal was unanimously approved

ADJOURNMENT. Upon motion of Mrs. Torres, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Ann M. Mazur, Clerk