

MINUTES

WATERTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING

FALLS AVENUE SENIOR CENTER
311 FALLS AVENUE, OAKVILLE, CT
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Margaret Durkee
Melanie Flaherty, Chairman
Kathy Goulet
Loretta Lambert, Vice Chairman
Joanne Murray (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)
Kathleen Plunkett, Secretary
Kathleen Williams

ABSENT: Helen Lukowski
Wanda Witty

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Carew, Recreation Director

OTHERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: None

1. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Lambert, Vice Chairman, called the Meeting to Order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Lambert, Vice Chairman, executed the Roll Call.

Ms. Carew reported Helen Lukowski is home if anyone wants to send her a card.

Ms. Carew reported Jean Murray will be late this evening.

3. Election of Officers

MOTION: (Ms. Flaherty, sec. Ms. Lambert) to Remove the Election of Officers from the Table.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Watertown Commission on Aging

Regular Meeting

March 18, 2010

Page 2

Ms. Lambert asked for nominations for Chairman.

MOTION: (Ms. Durkee, sec. Ms. Lambert) to nominate Melanie Flaherty as Chairman of the Commission on Aging.

Discussion: **Ms. Lambert:** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, nominations are closed.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Flaherty, Chairman, asked for nominations for Vice Chairman.

MOTION: (Ms. Williams, sec. Ms. Durkee) to nominate Loretta Lambert as Vice Chairman of the Commission on Aging.

Discussion: **Ms. Flaherty** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, nominations are closed.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Flaherty, Chairman, asked for nominations of Secretary.

MOTION: (Ms. Lambert, sec. Ms. Williams) to nominate Kathleen Plunkett as Secretary of the Commission on Aging.

Discussion: **Ms. Flaherty** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, nominations are closed.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Correspondence

None

5. Public Participation

None

Watertown Commission on Aging

Regular Meeting

March 18, 2010

Page 3

6. Minutes

A. February 18, 2010 - Regular Meeting

MOTION: (Ms. Durkee, sec. Ms. Lambert) to approve the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2010 as amended.

Discussion: Page 1 – Melanie Flaherty listed as Vice Chairman; should be Loretta Lambert. Page 1 – Kathleen Plunkett is listed as Secretary; should be Kathleen Williams.

In Favor: Ms. Durkee, Ms. Flaherty, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Williams

Opposed:

Abstained: Ms. Goulet, Ms. Plunkett

MOTION CARRIED (4-0-2)

7. Chairman's Report

Ms. Carew reported due to the Freedom of Information laws, this is the time when the Chairman would make comments.

8. Municipal Agent's Report

Ms. Carew gave the following report (this report is from Darryle Willenbrock, Interim Municipal Agent).

- Monday, March 15 2010 was the last day for deliverable fuel in this year's energy program. The last day to apply for Energy Assistance is May 3rd and that is for all heating sources. At this point if someone applies who heats with oil (or other deliverable fuel), the should present a bill incurred between November 1 and March 15, 2010, paid or unpaid, and NOW will pay up to their basic benefit award. The bill must have the delivery date and the number of gallons on it. All payments will be sent to the vendor.
- May 17th is the last day a utility heated household, with a shut-off notice for its primary source of heat can apply.
- Still working with seniors on getting them the Medicare Savings Plan. It is my understanding that those who qualify for the Medicare Savings Plan and extra help will no longer need ConnPace. I am definitely still learning about the new Medicare Programs.

MOTION: (Ms. Durkee, sec. Ms. Goulet) to accept the Municipal Agent's Report as presented.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Senior Center Report

Ms. Carew reported that Roy Dilger passed away recently. He is part of the Senior Corps, not a Town Agency, that donates items to the Senior Center.

Ms. Carew gave the following report (this report is from JoAnn Koerber, Interim Director).

- The Garden Club has graciously decided to include the Senior Center with their beautiful planters. You may have seen other planters around Town. They will donate two planters which will be placed at the entrance of the Senior Center in early May. The Garden Club will plant the flowers and change the plants with each season. I have agreed to water the flowers and when necessary provide plant food.
- We are having our first monthly breakfast on Thursday, March 25th. We will be serving French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Orange Juice, Tea, and Coffee. If this program is popular it may become a weekly breakfast.
- Our Spring Celebration will be on Monday, March 22nd. We will be having pizza, salad, and dessert.
- The seniors will be going on a bus trip to the Painted Pony for lunch on Tuesday, March 23rd. This Senior Dine Group Restaurant Event is sponsored by New Opportunities. This trip appears to be popular the sign-up sheet is almost full.
- The Senior Walking Club will resume our walking at Veteran's Park on Tuesday, April 13th. We will meet each Tuesday and Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m.
- We will be showing movies again in April on Tuesday, April 13th and on Tuesday, April 27th at 1:30 p.m. Our March movies (Amelio) and (The Blind Side) were enjoyed by the seniors with an intermission treat of popcorn and soft drinks.
- Wednesday, April 14th there is a presentation on Sleep Management sponsored by Health Complex Medical.
- On Friday, April 16th there is a Setback Tournament at the Center.
- Senior Moments VI Rocky Hill Review is presenting a musical show to entertain our seniors on Thursday, April 22nd. This year they are sponsored by Falls Avenue Senior Corp.
- A local MRT & Firefighter is coming to the Center on Thursday, April 28th with the Medi-Pendant. Our seniors are going to participate in a question and answer session along with the opportunity to let the Medi-Pendant people know what the needs of the seniors are.
- The Watertown High School Chamber Choir and String Ensemble will be performing for us their spring concert on April 29th.

Ms. Carew added the following:

- The Police Department has been in correspondence with me and will be offering a program called "Senior Citizen Police academy". This is a 6 week program, 1.5 to 2.0 hours and it will entail the Watertown Police Department going to the Senior Center and lecturing them on identity theft and things people prey on seniors about. They will give the seniors a tour of the police station, the dispatch center, and have refreshments each week as well.

Watertown Commission on Aging

Regular Meeting

March 18, 2010

Page 5

MOTION: (Ms. Lambert, sec. Ms. Durkee) to accept the Senior Center Report as presented.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

10. New Business

New

11. Old Business

A. Budget

Ms. Carew gave a report on the proposed Senior Center Budget. The Finance Subcommittee started this Commission's discussion prior to the scheduled time of 8:15 p.m.

Ms. Murray stated Ms. Carew did a great job presenting this department's budget.

B. Senior Center Coordinator's Position

Ms. Carew reported that Ms. Willenbrock left the Senior Center back at the end of December and Ms. Koerber has been down there in the interim. Ms. Koerber is doing a great job, but the position still hasn't been posted yet. So I put together a job description and that is sitting at the Town Manager's office for his review. One of the concerns I have is that they weren't filling the position and it's been 3 months. It will probably take another month to interview. There was discussion of maybe cutting back the hours and I'm kind of annoyed because they haven't done this with other departments. Why start here? I wrote a two page letter justifying this position.

It's almost a \$24,000 savings with Ms. Willenbrock leaving, because a new person coming in will start at entry level, with no longevity payout. The position will not be paid as it was with someone with 30 years of service. It's starting at a totally different level and my recommendation was to have it come in under my Assistant Recreation Director because in my absence, my Assistant will take over. I've heard that they aren't going to cut back the hours, but that's hearsay. The Senior Budget is under because of the Director retiring. Another concern I have is that I heard they are commingling two different positions. The same person is now up here doing Social Service again but Social Services handles 22,000 people, from birth to death. Our senior center is basically our Seniors and there s about 4,000 people within the Town so I really wanted to make that point. I hope they understood.

Watertown Commission on Aging

Regular Meeting

March 18, 2010

Page 6

C. Grant

We received a \$3,800 check from a Social Services Agency. It will be used for seniors. Last year we used it for food and fuel. This year we are planning on using it for computers.

Ms. Durkee reported she brought up the computer purchase at her Rotary Meeting as well; they may help.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: (Ms. Durkee, sec. Ms. Murray) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Meeting Adjourned at about 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Flaherty, Chairman
Watertown Commission on Aging

Approved: _____
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk