

MINUTES

WATERTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING

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

PRESENT: Margaret Durkee
Melanie Flaherty
Loretta Lambert, Vice Chairman
Joanne Murray
Cathleen Williams

ABSENT: Kathy Goulet
Helen Lukowski
Kathleen Plunkett, Secretary
Wanda Witty

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Carew, Recreation Director

OTHERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: None

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

Ms. Flaherty, Vice Chairman, called the Meeting to Order at 7:20 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Election of Officers

MOTION: (Ms. Flaherty, sec. Ms. Durkee) to Table the Election of Officers.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Correspondence

- A. Letter of Resignation from Commissioner Joann Murray

Ms. Carew reported a letter of resignation was received from Ms. Murray.

- B. Letter of Appointments:

Ms. Carew reported letters of appointment were mailed for the members listed below:

- Loretta Lambert
- Kathy Goulet
- Margaret Durkee
- Jean Murray

4. Public Participation

None

5. Minutes

- A. November 9, 2009 - Regular Meeting

MOTION: (Ms. Flaherty, sec. Ms. Williams) to approve the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2009 as presented.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Ms. Flaherty

Opposed: None

Abstained: Ms. Durkee, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Plunkett, Ms. Williams

MOTION FAILED (1-0-4)

- B. December 17, 2009 – Regular Meeting (Cancelled)

No action necessary.

- C. January 21, 2010 – Regular Meeting (Cancelled)

No action necessary.

6. Municipal Agent's Report

Ms. Carew reported that Darryle Willenbrock was the Town's Social Worker for at least 17 years and then she came down to the Senior Center and she was the Director for at least the last 10 years and in December she retired effective December 31 2009 basically because of her benefits. Darryle came back as the Social Worker after retirement, 3 days a week, part time, up to 20 hours. We have not replaced her yet, we have an interim director at the Senior Center currently. That job will be posted soon; the Town Manager is working on the job description and the funding which is effective July 1st. She felt it is a buyer's market and they can hire the most qualified person available, somebody who is well versed in all aspects of running a Senior Center, with a Bachelor's Degree at least and some experience or an Associate's Degree with at least 5 year's experience in therapeutic recreation, community recreation, or Social Services/Human Services. Joanne Kerber was hired as the interim director; she was employed in the Town Clerk's Office for the past 3 years as a temporary. What she can do is limited because she has not been trained and they'd rather wait until they hire someone permanently to do this training. The Senior Corps has a slate of officers and they meet once a month. They've done some fundraising and they actually bought the Center a new fax machine and they've been holding different events. This group is not part of the Senior Center, but they are here to help. The Senior Corps has about 4,000 VHS tapes in the game room now, and they're going to have a book club swap as well.

Here is Darryle's Report:

- We are still in the process of doing energy assistance applications. There are some people who have actually gone through their allotted amount for the year and we are looking at other resources. Fortunately for Watertown we do have other resources to help people out who are caught up in the situation between Watertown Social Services and the Council of Churches. You saw me getting a lot of checks before Christmas, we have the emergency food and fuel bank. Right now there is about \$60,000 in there. It's 100% donations. Included in that are lights, gas, oil, prescriptions, rent assistance, shut off notices, so that's what this is all about.
- We are slowly helping Seniors decipher the new Medicare regulations which in many cases with the new Medicare Savings Plan, many seniors that qualify for ConnPace will qualify for their Medicare Part B paid for and this will save them probably more than \$1,000 a year. The State will not reimburse any monies for the applicant for this program as it did in the past. This is really a wonderful program. It is just getting the word out to the public about what it is and how it works. Anyone who you may think qualifies, I have applications in my office and on line.
- The new ConnPace Regulations are following Medicare Part B. One can only apply for ConnPace between November 15 through December 31. If you get a notice to do a redetermination that can be any time during the year. Also if you are a ConnPace with the Medicare Savings Plan you may change your Medicare D benchmark plan once during closed enrollment. I know this is very confusing but the more I am doing it the more clear it is becoming, however I can certainly understand why seniors are confused with the new program. Questions for these programs and others can be directed to me at the Social Services Office – 860-945-5256.

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Senior Center Report

Ms. Carew gave the following report (this report is from Joanne):

- The New Hope Angleton Pancake Supper, and that's the original Christ Church that broke away, they were meeting here on Sundays but now they meet at Swift Middle School), they were going to have a pancake supper here on Tuesday the 16th, it was cancelled because of the snowstorm. Because they had already made a lot of the food, they will hold a breakfast for the seniors very soon.
- Judge Calabrese, our Probate Judge, will be visiting the Center on Thursday, March 4th to discuss conservatorship.
- The Movie of the Week will be shown on March 2nd and the 30th. Popcorn and soft drinks will be served.
- Connecticare will be visiting Tuesday, March 9th to discuss the Medicare Advanced Plan.
- New Opportunities, our meals on wheels program, will present the Mediterranean Diet on Tuesday, March 9th.
- We will have a Calypso Show sponsored by Health Net with Luke Rodney is presenting Beach Music in Winter on Thursday, March 11th.
- TD Bank is coming on Tuesday, March 16th to discuss banking. Anyone that opens a checking account will receive \$50 into their account.
- Vincent P. Deluise, MD from Opticare, is presenting Aging Eyes; Improving Your Sight in Your Golden Years on March 24th.
- The Indoor Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, March 27th sponsored by the Senior Corps from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Hearing Screening is sponsored by (Inaudible) Hearing on March 29th.
- Jennie Braddock, PTOCS CLT will be presenting Arthritis and Exercise on March 30th.
- Senior Calendar was mailed to all members.

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: (Ms. Williams, sec. Ms. Lambert) to Add Agenda Item 9A, Budget Discussion

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

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9. New Business

A. Budget Discussion

Ms. Carew reported they have already had 2 rounds with the Town Manager and the Finance Director; nothing has been cut to this department yet. The review with the Town Council's Finance Subcommittee will be held on March 11, 2010 at 8:15 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. All members are welcome to attend that meeting.

10. Old Business

None

11. Public Participation

None

12. Adjournment

MOTION: (Ms. Lambert, sec. Ms. Williams) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Meeting Adjourned at about 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Flaherty, Acting Chairman
Watertown Commission on Aging

Approved: _____
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk