

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Vice Chairman Sandra Micalizzi in the absence of Chairman Earl Temchin.

Mr. Cammuso led the **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag.

Members present: Ben Cammuso, Marjorie Chase, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Connie Proll, and Michael Rossi. Members absent: Len Marcheselle, Earl Temchin

Ms. Micalizzi thanked the Calendar House staff for all their efforts and hard work operating the emergency shelter during the recent storm.

The minutes of the October 11, 2011 meeting were presented to the Commission. Sandra Micalizzi asked if there were any corrections, additions or comments. Lynn Maschi made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

Commissioner/Treasurer Susan Locks presented the **Treasurer's Report** stating that of the FY 2011/2012 budget of \$481,750. \$148,327.99 (38.9%) has been expended; \$39,241.40 encumbered; with \$294,180.61 remaining. A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor. A suggestion was made that a line item for emergencies be added in the next FY budget.

With reference to the update on the newsletter project, the representative from Priority Graphics was unable to attend but will be present at the December 13th Commission Meeting.

Executive Director Robert Verderame presented the **October 2011 Director's Report**, noting that Dial-a-Ride provided 1213 one way rides on 20 days, including 479 in town medical rides and 75 out of town medical rides. Twenty-four new members joined in October. The Nutrition Program served 628 meals on 19 days. Fifty five applications were completed for the Energy Assistance Program. There is a considerable reduction in the amounts of the individual grants. Seniors previously granted between \$800. - \$1000. will only be awarded \$300. - \$350. This will create significant hardships, and it is hoped that the governor will step in. The open enrollment period for Medicare Part D was moved up this year to begin on October 15th and end on December 7th. This involves researching Rx formularies on the Medicare website to determine which plans will cover the medications each individual requires. If their existing plan will not cover their specific medications, an alternative plan must be determined. We are grateful for the assistance of volunteers Mary Potter and Irene Murray, in addition to BSW Intern Melissa Morosko, all of whom have been trained as CHOICES counselors. Preparations are underway for the AARP/TCE Income Tax Season. Senior Center Secretary Cynthia Gilbert and volunteer Mary Robarge will once again be organizing and overseeing this program. Counselor training sessions have been scheduled. Under Bus Maintenance, the newer tires were removed from the 2000 bus and replaced with used tires. Bob met with Mark Azsklar and submitted the vehicle title to be transferred to the new owner (i.e. the junk yard). In conjunction with the Southington Library, Calendar House hosted the first in a three series book discussion group entitled "At Bat: Biographies about Baseball Greats".

Under Building Maintenance, the pavilion was closed for the season, with the water turned off; the garden area was cleared and roto-tilled; and the fan inducer motor on the furnace affecting the office area was replaced. Sharyn Murphy did not submit a Program Coordinator's Report. Susan Locks made a motion to accept the Director's Report; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor. Sandra thanked Bob for providing his report.

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting

November 9, 2011

Page two

Under Correspondence: Minutes from the October 5th Department Heads Meeting were available. The Executive Director pointed out the emphasis Town Manager Garry Brumback places on the need for future planning. Mr. Brumback will be scheduling mid-year budget reviews with each department head. Bob noted this will be important as we consider budget proposals for the next fiscal year. The Capital Improvement Plans submitted will be an important town-wide consideration. A memo from the Finance Department indicated that the Board of Finance Meeting has been changed to November 16, 2011. A letter of thanks was received from the Lions Club in appreciation for permission to hold their recent breakfast at Calendar House. Letters were received from Calendar House members expressing their appreciation for the services offered including transportation, classes and programming. Specifically, Vijay and Vinita Khare, visiting from India, appreciated the kindness and helpfulness of the staff, the meal program and the transportation program. Lorene Matthews was grateful for transportation to her doctor appointments, especially mentioning the courtesy of bus driver James Brown. Elizabeth Damick was very pleased with Juanice Raymond's quilting class and the Health Fair, noting that a recent visit to her son's family in Michigan gave her the opportunity to visit another senior center and she remarked that "they have nothing like Calendar House...we are very blessed to have Calendar House with all its services!"

Under Old Business: Due to the lack of required insurance, Jeff Skrzypiec retracted his bid to do the floors. At this point, Bob would prefer to wait until spring. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to defer having the floors cleaned until spring; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor. Lynn Maschi asked about clean-up after the "shelter". Bob assured the commissioners that everything was thoroughly cleaned by CERT team members, Fire Department, the custodian and himself on Saturday following the shelter closing. Sandra Micalizzi suggested that Southington apply to be designated as "Heart Safe". This requires a certain number of AED's placed in the community and individuals trained in CPR. She noted that Southington has the highest incidence of breast cancer in the state. Bob suggested that Sandra contact Health Director Charles Motes. Discussion regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be deferred to the Budget meeting on December 13th. Martha Benevelli, our new clerk-typist will start on Monday, November 14th.

Under Transportation Committee: Bob Verderame reported that the five year lease obligation to the State of Connecticut has been satisfied and we now own the 2006 bus. We have received the vehicle title. The 2000 Bus is history. The response to the scheduled Christmas Tree Shop day trip has been very enthusiastic, and we are exploring options to obtain a larger bus to enable more folks to participate. Bob Verderame and Cynthia Gilbert will attend a Central CT Regional Planning Agency Meeting on 11/18/11. A presentation on transportation related software programs will be presented.

Under New Business: Bob reported on the recent Storm Alfred. Calendar House was opened as an emergency center at 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 29th and was closed on Friday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m. The community response was commendable. The CERT team supported the initial set up; the SFD established a command center on site; Mark Sciota kept Bob informed on behalf of town management, and arranged to have Dawn Sargis available for two days. Many volunteers offered to help out. The Calendar House staff remained on hand, working long hours. With contributions and assistance, Bob manned the kitchen serving up breakfast, lunch and dinner each day. A debriefing meeting will be held on November 10th. Lynn remarked that this event maxed out the capacity of Calendar House. Bob agreed and stated that Calendar House is suitable for several days, but an entire week presented significant sanitation issues due to the lack of shower facilities and inadequate restrooms. It was noted that DePaolo Middle School was opened as an auxiliary facility, but was not utilized. All in all, Bob asserted that he was very pleased with the service we provided. Michael Rossi said he was proud and pleased, a sentiment echoed by the other commissioners. A budget meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. prior to the December 13th commission meeting. All commissioners are encouraged to participate. A motion was made by Connie Proll to approve acceptance of the service contract for the generator, with the provision that the Town Engineer review and approve it; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor. Connie Proll made a motion to change the time of commission meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Susan Locks; Sandra Micalizzi called for a voice vote; 2 ayes; 4 nays; 1 abstention; motion defeated. Lynn Maschi made a motion to accept the 2012 dates and time as presented; Marjorie Chase seconded; all were in favor. A letter will be submitted to the Town Clerk.

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting

November 9, 2011

Page three

A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to permit the Calendar House to close early, at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 8th so that the staff can attend and assist with the annual Holiday Party at the Aqua Turf; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

Public Communication: Cliff Snow complimented Bob Verderame and the Calendar House staff on the way they handled and managed the emergency shelter. He has heard many positive comments appreciating the gracious way folks were treated and cared for during a trying and difficult time.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ben Cammuso, seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, December 13** at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a Budget Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary