

MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Commissioner Earl Temchin.

Members present: Marlene Carbone, Marjorie Chase, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Guss Nevelos, Michael Rossi and Earl Temchin.

Member excused: Ben Cammuso

Commissioner Guss Nevelos led the **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag.

A get well card was circulated to be sent to Commissioner Ben Cammuso following his surgery. He is doing well and will be going to a care facility for physical therapy in a few days.

The minutes of the March 9, 2010 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Commissioner/Treasurer Susan Locks reporting that of the FY 2009/2010 \$509,025. revised budget, (which includes \$44,016 in Transfers/Adjustments), \$319,676.38 (66.3%) has been expended; \$17,986.70 remains encumbered, leaving \$171,361.92. It was noted that a transfer of funds into the Binding/Microfilming/Printing line item will be needed so that the monthly newsletter can be prepared, printed and mailed through the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Sandra Micalizzi inquired if a request to the Calvanese Fund had been made to support the newsletter. Executive Director responded that a request had been made and denied. Other options are being explored. Mr. Verderame also remarked that the Building Maintenance line item will remain in relatively good shape if there is no more snow this season! It was noted that the Town Manager recommended a \$1,000. cut from our Vehicle Maintenance line item. Notice of budget workshops was presented. Of particular importance is the public hearing scheduled on April 5th at 7pm at DePaolo Middle School. Mr. Verderame will attend, and encouraged the commissioners to attend if possible. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor.

Executive Director Robert Verderame presented the **Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for February 2010**. Mr. Verderame noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program provided 665 one-way rides, with 359 medical runs. Social Service requests included inquiries due to the changes in the Medicare Savings Program. There continued to be a number of individuals experiencing problems with the Medicare Part D open enrollment process. Only new applicants, individuals turning 62 or 65 may currently enroll. Others must wait until the next open enrollment period - November 15-December 31, 2010. The Energy Assistance program will end in April, and the Renter's Rebate Program will begin on May 15th. As previously noted, we have students enrolled in social work programs interning with us. Sara Cruz will be at the Calendar House for two semesters for a minimum of 14 hours per week. Rebecca Samela will be here five hours each week. Senior Center Secretary/TCE Local Coordinator Cynthia Gilbert reported that the AARP TCE Income Tax Program (Tax Year 2009) is off and running. Over sixty individuals were assisted in February. Federal and State returns were completed and e-filed. Some seniors are unsure if they received the \$250. stimulus payment early in 2009; we have recently acquired a direct telephone number to ascertain that information, which is extremely helpful. Due to a number of provisions in the 2009 tax code that enable additions to the standard deduction some qualified individuals, who would itemize, can receive a greater refund by not itemizing. Calculating it both ways enables the preparer to explain the scenario to the client.

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Under Bus Maintenance: Mr. Verderame recently spoke with Mark Azklar who remarked that all the buses are in great shape. Routine service was done on the 2002, 2006 and 2009. The rear brakes, lines, calipers and rotors were replaced on the 2006 bus, and a tail pipe clamp was replaced on the 2009 bus.

Under Building Maintenance: An additional workstation was set up, including desk, telephone, computer and printer for the long term intern's use. A large plasma television donated by BankNorth was mounted and connected in Room 5, along with a DVD and a VCR player. This system has already been used by the AARP 55 Alive Safe Driving Course and pronounced a "wonderful addition!" Vincent Morelli, Leonard Martin, Frances Fiondella and Mark White contributed their expertise to accomplishing these additions. Vandals broke into the pavilion on February 9, 2010 with minor damage reported. The Executive Director filed a police report and will secure the building with additional locks.

The Program Coordinator's Report highlighted the membership meeting on February 4th that included the installation of officers followed by the "Rocky Hill Review" variety show. The response to the show was enthusiastic. This local group will be invited back. Commissioner Lynn Maschi attended the meeting and enjoyed it very much. Walter Kizilski commented that he appreciated Mrs. Maschi's attendance noting that members seem surprised when a commissioner shows up and that it means a lot. Commissioner Temchin noted that the relationship between the commission and the membership has been somewhat distant. He affirmed the fact that commission meetings are public meetings and Calendar House members are particularly welcome and entitled to attend. Walter Kizilski noted that Commissioner Ben Cammuso is always here, pitching in, helping out in many ways. Also noted in the program report was the successful Valentine's Day Extravaganza hosted by the Kennedy Middle School National Junior Honor Society attended by 85 persons; and the Health Net sponsored "Beating the Winter Blues" show enjoyed by 55 seniors.

A motion to accept the Director's Report as presented was made by Guss Nevelos; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

Under Correspondence: A memo advising of the current contracted price per gallon of gasoline was included in response to Michael Rossi's inquiry last month. Earl Temchin noted that the agreed price binds all town departments. A question regarding the significant increase from \$1.28 last year to \$2.38 was addressed in the memo as reflective of the exceptionally low rate received last year. Minutes for the February 3 and March 4 Department Heads meetings were reviewed. Mr. Temchin noted that the only item directly impacting Calendar House was the request by Police Chief Daley for CDL licensed drivers interested in driving in the event of an emergency. Mr. Verderame informed the commissioners that all four of our drivers are CDL licensed and have indicated a willingness to assist in an emergency.

Under Old Business: Department Heads have been notified by e-mail and flyers distributed to the town departments inviting town employees to attend the sensitivity training class scheduled on March 23, at noon, at the Calendar House, to be conducted by Mary Garofalo, M.S.W. and Dallas Savard of Wheeler Clinic, Inc. The Commission strongly recommends that all Calendar House staff, including the part time drivers participate. Mr. Verderame noted that part time driver Ed Pocock who has already attended sensitivity training will cover the time frame. Referencing the Senior Fair, after some discussion, the consensus remains that the matter be tabled until such time as additional information is available. There was considerable discussion regarding the "Family FunFest" health event held at the Aqua Turf March 7th. Sandra Micalizzi attended the event and felt that it was excellent, somewhat commercial, but included many screenings and diverse offerings, such a cooking demonstration.

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Continuing under Old Business: Cliff Snow also attended the Family FunFest event and echoed the sentiment that it was commercial, but felt that it offered what he wanted. Lynn Maschi wondered how many senior citizens attended, and Cliff remarked he observed a “smattering”. Sandra Micalizzi wondered if rather than a one-time fair, the needs of our seniors might be appropriately addressed at specific, targeted events, such as bagel breakfasts, scheduled screenings, etc. Lynn Maschi remarked that in addition to other community resources, there are three registered nurses on the Senior Citizen Commission.

Under Transportation Committee: Sandra Micalizzi asked if the commissioners had an opportunity to review the survey draft given to them last month. There was considerable discussion regarding the survey. A number concerns were raised. Guss Nevelos asked if the respondents were required to sign their names; Sandra Micalizzi replied that it would be optional. Earl Temchin said that the survey should indicate that it is up to the individual whether or not they identify themselves on the form. Several commissioners offered suggestions and recommendations. Lynn Maschi suggested including a statement such as, “If I have a concern or complaint do I feel it would be heard and addressed?” She also recommended a statement to the effect, “Are you aware that there is a Senior Citizen Commission that meets monthly and that you are welcome to attend. “ All of the commissioners were in agreement that some type of statement asking if the senior citizens knew who they were, how to get in touch with them and if they would feel comfortable contacting them be included in the survey. The transportation committee will present a final “draft” next month for the commission to act on. Means of distribution and collection of the survey will be determined at that time.

Under the guidelines and regulations for the State Matching Grant, there is no requirement to pick up individuals at care facilities such as the Summit and Southington Care Center. Mr. Verderame attended a transportation meeting earlier in the day at the Glastonbury Senior Center. He will present a report of that meeting to the commission at a later date. Mr. Temchin noted that transportation concerns present a very sensitive issue. The Commission will need to look very carefully at the entire program. The safety and well being of the seniors is primary. He would like to review the grant provisions and analyze them from a legal standpoint. Lynn Maschi noted that the definition of residence could be a gray area. Mr. Verderame stated that of the 27 senior centers represented at the meeting he attended, none provide transportation from care facilities, or for individuals being discharged from medical facilities. Mr. Temchin remarked that transportation will continue to be an ongoing topic of discussion as every effort is made to address the demands while maximizing resources.

Congratulations were extended to Commissioners Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi and Earl Temchin on their reappointment to the Senior Citizen Commission.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Guss Nevelos; seconded by Sandra Micalizzi. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, April 13th, 2010** at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary