

MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Earl Temchin.

Members present: Ben Cammuso, Marjorie Chase, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Michael Rossi and Earl Temchin.

Members absent/excused: Marlene Carbone, Sandra Micalizzi and Guss Nevelos.

Commissioner Ben Cammuso led the **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag.

The minutes of the September 9, 2009 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Susan Locks. She reported that of the FY2009/2010 \$507,825. revised budget, (which included 42,816 in Transfers/Adjustments), \$157,248.12 (38.7%) has been expended; \$39,403.93 has been encumbered, leaving \$311,172.95 remaining. A motion was made by Ben Cammuso 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 September 2009**. Mr. Verderame noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program provided 827 one-way rides, with over 349 medical runs. Budgetary concerns have resulted in a significant reduction of out of town medical runs provided, with priority given to dialysis patients. Social Services remained relatively quiet with the exception of a large volume of telephone inquiries concerning Energy Assistance. The Renter's Relief program officially ended on September 15th. Volunteers completed 387 applications, an all time high! Many thanks to Sharyn, Maxine, Ray, Armand, Marty and Ellie. The program appeared to be more actively marketed by state and community agencies. CHOICES training, scheduled in October, will be attended by the Executive Director and the Program Coordinator, as well as possibly two volunteers. Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D begins on November 15th, and the DSS Rx Express Bus will be on site at the center on December 7th to assist our senior citizens. A "Meet 'n Greet" the Candidates has been scheduled on Thursday, October 22nd. Invitations were extended to the chairs of the Republican and Democratic Town Parties, as well as the four unaffiliated candidates. This will be an informal event, no speeches, no debate, limited to circulating among the attendees, followed by light refreshments. Commissioner Lynn Maschi noted that she had attended a similar event held previously and enjoyed the experience, encouraging the others to attend if possible.

Under Bus Maintenance: All buses are in good condition, running well. Routine maintenance is scheduled periodically. Commissioner Temchin inquired as to the mileage, gasoline costs and staffing, concerned that budget cuts were adversely affecting our service. Mr. Verderame assured him that we were doing well at this point.

Under Building Maintenance: The pavilion was closed and winterized. Many favorable comments have been noted as to the available use of the pavilion and the appearance of the federal columns. The ansele system and fire alarm system was routinely tested and serviced. Two decaying trees posing hazardous conditions were removed. Tile floors throughout the building were stripped, cleaned, waxed and polished. There are two lights in the parking lot that need replacing. The bulbs have been ordered; however, the electrician doesn't have the equipment to reach the fixtures, so inquiry is being made to Evergreen Nursery to assist in the replacement. The **Program Coordinator's report** included: Class Registration and the beginning of the fall classes schedule; a Bagel Breakfast with Mid State Medical, featuring information on alternative therapies (30 attendees); Renters Relief applications taken at Calendar House; the Chicken Dinner in the Pavilion (116 participants); the well-attended trip to Mohegan Sun including the play "Niagara Falls" (three buses, 153 persons). *(The Director expressed his appreciation to the staff for the extra work done for this trip, they did an excellent job!)* The monthly membership meeting was followed by HealthNet's Senior Star Karaoke contest. Two winners and one alternate will move on to the quarter finals at the Bristol Senior Center, with the possibility of achieving the honor of singing the national anthem at a Rock Cats Game next year.

A motion to accept the Director's Report as presented was made by Lynn Maschi; seconded by Susan Locks; all were in favor.

Under Correspondence: Minutes from Department Heads Meeting on October 7th were briefly reviewed. Mr. Verderame expounded on the information given at a recent meeting with the Town Health Director regarding the flu season. Senior citizens are encouraged to receive the "seasonal" flu inoculation; however, at this time individuals over sixty years of age are not considered to be at high risk and eligible to receive the H1N1 vaccine. The Health Department is keeping abreast of the situation as it develops and has formed a "strike team" which if necessary will go into the schools and inoculate the children. Calendar House would be available for the overflow, with possible evening or Saturday clinics scheduled. In the event of a pandemic, the Calendar House staff would be needed to assist and work with Health Department personnel. Related expenses incurred, (i.e. staff overtime; meals; supplies; etc.) would be provided by federal funding through the Health Department. Calendar House has scheduled a "seasonal" flu shot clinic in conjunction with the VNA of Central Connecticut to be held on Thursday, October 29th, between 9 am and noon. If needed, an additional clinic would be scheduled. Commissioner Temchin inquired as to Capital Improvement Plan addressed in the minutes, considering it to be a "pre-budget advisory", referencing current economic conditions, as pertains to "wish lists" and "five year plans". Additional information and specifics will be forwarded to the Executive Director by the Finance Director.

Also, **Under Correspondence**, several memos were presented for information only, with no action required. A rental request was received from Flanders West, a senior housing site, for an event to be held on Tuesday, December 15th, from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Although this is a first time request, it does include a number of Calendar House members who reside at Flanders West. It is to be a catered event, not requiring kitchen facilities. A motion to approve the request with the usual stipulations was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor.

Under Old Business: With reference to the offer made by “Sign It Again”, the buses currently have “Southington Senior Center” on them. The addition of the telephone number would be helpful. Due to the continued issue with skateboarders and loitering on the property, which had created a situation with some minor damage, it was suggested that signage be posted prohibiting such activities. A motion was made to have signage made, to make a request to “Sign It Again”, after consulting with the Town Attorney regarding the verbiage. Seconded by Marjorie Chase; all were in favor. Mr. Verderame will make the necessary contacts.

Continuing Under Old Business: Discussion regarding the Transportation Sub-Committee included a brief explanation by Earl Temchin that the committee will examine the use of resources and possible improvements in light of the ever-increasing demand. Also, under discussion was the procedure to be followed in scheduling and holding sub-committee meetings. The question had arisen if in fact this constituted a meeting requiring public notification under the FOI guidelines. Initially it was assumed that since it does not constitute a quorum, and was intended to function in an exploratory research and resource capacity reporting to the full Commission; it did not fall under an official meeting per se. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to the effect that the transportation sub-committee would meet as contemplated subject to public notice being provided or not provided in accordance with the opinion of the Town Attorney; seconded by Marjorie Chase; all in favor.

Under New Business: A very welcome announcement was made that Calendar House has received notification that the matching grant has been approved. The Senior Center Secretary informed the commissioners that invoicing for the first quarter has already been submitted. These funds will be very helpful in meeting the expenses and demands of the transportation program. As previously noted, the Executive Director has been in contact with the Health Director, keeping up to date on the H1N1 Flu situation. The Health Department has researched a federal grant, and will be submitting an application for the purchase and installation of a generator at the Calendar House Senior Center. Executive Director Robert Verderame has been working with the Health Department and the Town Engineering Department on the specifics, including the installation of a natural gas line. The generator will be used in emergency situations only, such as a power outage during a snow storm or heat wave. In the event of an emergency, the Red Cross would provide significant support to the Center.

Also, **Under New Business**, the commissioners were invited to attend the annual Holiday Party at the Aqua Turf on Thursday, December 10th. The Executive Director attended an F.O.I. Session at Town Hall on Thursday, October 8th. Guidelines were distributed to those present regarding compliance with mandates.

There were no members of the public present.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Michael Rossi.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, November 10th, 2009** at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary