

## MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Earl Temchin.

Members present: Earl Temchin, Ben Cammuso, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Guss Nivelos, Connie Proll, Ruth Riccio and Michael Rossi.

The minutes of the December 11, 2007 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 Connie Proll. She reported that of the \$437,058. current budget, \$197,018.58 (45.1%) has been expended, leaving \$240,039.42 remaining. At the half way through the fiscal year, we have used half the budget. The line item of concern that continues to bear watching is: Part-time Bus Driver Wages. A motion was made by Sandra Micalizzi to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Guss Nivelos; all were in favor.

Robert Verderame was asked to highlight the Director's and Program Coordinator's Report. He noted that 506 one-way rides were provided; a number of cancellations occurred due to the seniors' hesitancy to go out because of snow and ice. Social Services requests continue to increase numbers and in scope. We have expanded the report by breaking it down into specific services to give a more accurate accounting of the assistance we are providing. We continue to receive numerous inquiries from family members out of state regarding our services, especially transportation. Medicare Part D Open enrollment ended December 31<sup>st</sup>. The assistance of CHOICES counselor Joy Giuliano was appreciated; and recognition is due Sharyn Murphy for her efforts in handling many, many phone calls and appointments. We have not been advised at this time as to the next open enrollment period, but new retirees and individuals who lose their benefits are eligible to sign up, and do not have to wait for an open enrollment period. Our Income Tax Assistance Program has begun with training sessions and certification testing for all the volunteer counselors Mary Robarge has stepped in to give direction; Membership Association President-Elect Rey Fecteau has volunteered as a counselor; and Cynthia Gilbert will continue to give oversight, addressing any problems.

Scam alerts from DSS included a "Jury Duty" scam attempting to gain an individual's Social Security number by claiming to be a jury coordinator. Earl Temchin remarked that Jury notification is never done by telephone calls to individuals and do not ask for social security numbers. Sandra Micalizzi mentioned the recurring telephone scam with a message to call a specific number, which turns out to result in significant fraudulent charges to your bill. Earl Temchin asked if notices were posted. And Bob responded that we post on our bulletin board and include information in our newsletter.

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting  
January 8, 2008  
Page two

Ben Cammuso questioned the mileage on the 2000 and 2002 buses, and was assured that the numbers are balancing out. With regards to the complaint that the sidewalks were not cleared, Earl asked if we ever had problems before, and Bob's reply was no. He clarified the issue with the Deputy Town Manager/Town Attorney Mark Scotia and the Police Department. Our sidewalks were cleared. The sidewalks in question are the responsibility of the Board of Education, contracted out.

Calendar House staff "officially" welcomed everyone back on December 17<sup>th</sup> as we re-opened for all activities and programs including the nutrition program. There were many positive comments on the new parking lot, especially the lights.

The Program Coordinator's Report highlighted the December 6<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party at the Aqua Turf that 306 attended, enjoying the ambiance, socialization and DJ Jerry Limmer. Also, the Membership Meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>, with entertainment by the DePaolo Middle School String Band, Stage Band and Concert Choir. This was the first time the String Band performed here – 67 attended. It was fantastic.

Sandra Micalizzi remarked that Quinlan's bill seemed high; Bob responded that we had several days with ice issues necessitating repeat applications of sand, etc.

Connie Proll congratulated Cynthia and Bob for their efforts in putting together the Christmas Party which went extremely well.

A motion to accept the Director's Report as presented was made by Connie Proll; seconded by Ruth Riccio; all in favor.

Under Correspondence: Regarding the Department Head Meetings Minutes, Mr. Verderame noted Police Chief Daly's update on the first murder in Southington in ten years, commending the work done by the detective division; Janet Mellon's report on the holiday gift program and assistance given to needy town residents during December; and Sue Saucier's comments on the Grandparents Support Group co-sponsored by the Youth Services and the Calendar House, that is going very well. Sue noted that the number one reason so many grandparents are raising their grandchildren is that the parents are involved with drugs and/or alcohol and are not competent to raise their own children. The support group is a little over a year old.

Anthony Tranquillo issued a press release re. the new Bulky Waste Transfer Station. This replaces the existing one on Chuck & Eddie's property; and will include leaf composting. Residents must show ID to use the facility.

New employee reimbursement forms have been issued by Finance Director Emilia Portelinha; which we are now using.

## Senior Citizen Commission Meeting

January 8, 2008

Page three

Chris Palmieri verbally requested the rental of building for Community Theatre on May 9 & 10; and May 16 & 17. They performed "Love Letters" at the Calendar House last year, and it went very well. The seniors, as well as the general public, enjoyed the performances. With Bob's recommendation, a motion was made by Connie Proll to approve this rental with the usual stipulations; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor; permission granted.

Flu Immunization Clinic is over; very small turn out.

We received a Certificate of approval following the Department of Public Safety Fire Marshall's inspection. This is an annual requirement due to the types of programming we provide.

Assistant Director of Finance Richard Lopatosky advised us to include a \$2,000. budget request for computer hardware and software updates. This will enable us to replace office computers and upgrade software programs on a continuing as needed basis.

Following Bob Verderame and Peter Freeman's successful grant application, the SeniorNet Computer Lab received \$1,000. from the AT&T Employees Community Service Fund, whose consideration and continued support of the Lab is appreciated.

Under Old Business: Regarding the parking lot, we are in good shape. Speaking with Engineer Vin Caterino, Bob expressed how well they had worked together and regretted that Vin was leaving the town for a position in his hometown. He has been very helpful. Vin conferred with Engineer Jim Rapone, who takes over the project. It will be up to Bob to come up with a date for the second layer to be applied, as well as backfilling, seeding and tree planting. Lynn Maschi asked if the second layer was not applied intentionally or due to weather. Earl wondered if it was thought spring would be better timing or if they had hoped to finish. Bob remarked that they lost several days due to rain, but that this actually has advantages. For one thing, the second coat will adhere to the new curbing and make it stronger. Sandra Micalizzi asked if we would have to pay more for re-stripping. Bob remarked that the parking places nearest the building are not designated handicap, and he will follow through on the re-stripping. With the bid at \$189,000., a grant of \$215,000. and a 17% contingency on top of that, we have enough money and time to complete this job by the December 31, 2008 deadline.

Concerning the DellaVecchia/D'Angelo plaques, we will schedule a dedication after the spring time change, coordinating with planned activities and building rentals, etc. Brief summaries of the achievements and contributions of these two gentlemen will be prepared, in addition to press releases. Family members and friends will be invited, as well as the general public.

## Senior Citizen Commission Meeting

January 8, 2008

Page four

Under New Business: The \$2,000. Capital Outlay for Computer has been added to the proposed 2008/09 Budget. Despite repeated attempts to obtain an estimate from PerfectTemp for the two-zone heating and duct work, no information has been given. Although this is needed for the second floor above the office, it is not imperative. Bob suggests we defer this item for another year, and put it into next year's proposed budget. Hopefully the duct work that needs repairing will not be too costly and can be absorbed in the current budget. Earl inquired as to the action the Commission favored.

Michael Rossi made a motion that the 'two-zone' heating funding request not be included in this year's proposed budget, and be considered next year; Guss Nevelos seconded; all were in favor.

Connie Proll asked for clarification on the budget process, and the date the Finance Board would be considering our budget. Bob answered that our budget, (as well as all other town department budgets other than the Board of Education), must be submitted to Town Manager John Weischel no later than January 15, 2008. If there is a meeting scheduled with the Finance Board, Connie would like to be present and asked that she be notified. Cynthia Gilbert will contact her.

*[please see point of reference following official minutes]*

The new Senior Center Part time Clerk Typist I, Dawn Sargis started Monday, January 7, 2008, and by every indication she is a good fit for the Center, and a very valuable and appropriate addition to our staff.

A special Valentine's Day Dance is being planned by the Calendar House and Kennedy Middle School as an intergenerational event on February 14, from 4 – 6 p.m. at the school. Tickets will cost \$5. Finger food and desserts will be served, and Jerry Limmer will DJ. Transportation will be provided. Kennedy Faculty advisor Karen Sciota is coordinating this event with Bob and Cynthia. Karen reports that "her kids" are very excited. Southington High School groups have sponsored an annual event for several years and our seniors have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the students.

Program Coordinator Sharyn Murphy will be attending the NCOA Annual Conference "Aging in America" to be held March 26-30 in Washington, D.C.

Under Public Communication: Membership Association President Elect Rey Fecteau stated that he was glad to be here, and hopes to be of assistance to the Commission, saying that he is "available and willing to help in any way possible". Walter Kizilski remarked that he is very much impressed with the parking lot – it's certainly not the "old town farm"! He commended the Calendar House staff for all their work especially in the building interiors – painted, cleaned and reorganized – looking great!

Senior Citizen Commission Meeting  
January 8, 2008  
Page five

Ben Cammuso requested and made a motion that future Commission Meeting be opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; seconded by Connie Proll; all were in favor.

The Senior Center Secretary noted that on the list of Commission Meeting dates recently submitted to the Town Clerk, the November meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, which is Election Day. With the approval of the Commission that meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and the appropriate letter will be submitted to the Town Clerk. Michael Rossi made a motion that the meeting date be so changed; seconded by Connie Proll; all were in favor.

The next Commission Meeting will be on **Tuesday**, February 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

The Commission expressed their appreciation to Cliff Snow who has been filling in as Membership Association Interim President.

Michael Rossi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert  
Senior Center Secretary

*[Point of reference: According to a memo received from the Town of Southington's Finance Director, the Town Manager will present his budget to the Board of Finance no later than February 25, 2008. (We may or may not be required to appear before the Finance Board, as they choose who they want to meet with on an individual basis.) A condensed Town and Education budget will be published in two newspapers no later than March 31, 2008. A public hearing will be held on April 7, 2008. After the public hearing, the Board of Finance may insert new items or increase or decrease items in the budget. The Board of Finance shall adopt a budget and transmit it to the Town Council by April 21, 2008. The Town Council shall adopt a budget no later than May 12, 2008.]*