

MEETING OF MAY 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Commission Vice Chairman, Sandra Micalizzi.

Members present: Ben Cammuso, Marjorie Chase, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Guss Nevelos, Michael Rossi and Earl Temchin,

Members absent: Marlene Carbone.

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

The minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Guss Nevelos to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor.

Congratulations were extended to Commissioner Susan Locks on the American Legion Auxiliary, Kiltonic Unit, No. 72's recognition with their "Unsung Member" award. Susan has been very involved in the "Poppy Program" and the "Boxes to Soldiers" effort, as well as volunteering throughout the community. Exemplifying the essence of community spirit and volunteerism, her commitment is an excellent example of Southington's best!

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Susan Locks. She reported that of the \$520,785. revised budget, \$407,064.63 (80.4%) has been expended; \$11,557.94 has been encumbered, leaving \$102,162.43 remaining. The fourth quarter payment of the Matching Grant was received and an appropriation request has been made and will be addressed at the next Board of Finance meeting. We are making every effort to be conservative in our expenditures, with the expectation that unspent funds would be carried over to satisfy the amount required by the \$40,000. State of CT DOT Grant for Purchase of New Bus. A motion was made by Michael Rossi to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor.

Vice-Chairman Sandra Micalizzi turned the gavel over to Chairman Earl Temchin who asked Robert Verderame to present the **Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for April 2009**. Mr. Verderame noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program had another fantastic month, providing 1033 one-way rides. Social Service requests were relatively light, although we received many phone inquiries regarding various programs. A number of ConnPACE applications were completed, and several legal issues were addressed.

The Income Tax Program officially ended April 15th. Over 86 individuals were assisted during the month of April. Cynthia Gilbert, Mary Robarge and Kathy Boglarski attended a "wrap-up" meeting in Wallingford on April 27th with AARP and IRS representatives. It has been a very successful season for the state, as well as for our site. We were commended on the high percentage of returns filed electronically. We are especially appreciative of the time, effort and diligence our Calendar House volunteers have contributed. Mary Robarge and Kathy Boglarski have done an excellent job in every area. Official recognition and thanks to Bob Binkowski, Patricia Bouchard, Ray Fecteau, Len Pedone, Priscilla Scheiner, John Sudol and Sandra Voorhees.

The Executive Director met with Engineer Jim Grappone for a final inspection of the parking lot to close the file on the state grant. Mr. Grappone and Mr. Verderame were satisfied with the project and especially with the noticeable lack of any damage to the curbing by the snow removal service! The Southington Lions Club donated a commercial grade cart for the electric grill they previously given to the Center. The Men's Golf League held an organizational meeting on April 23rd; their season begins on Tuesday, May 12th.

Under Bus Maintenance, all the buses are operating well. The 2000 bus was out of service one day due to a spark plug issue which was resolved.

In regards to Building Maintenance, the Executive Director reported that the windows in the Main Hall and Room 2 were cleaned; flower beds were mulched (thank you, Ben Cammuso); the garden area was roto-tilled; the pavilion water/plumbing supply was checked and connected by Santora Plumbing; HVAC seasonal service was done by Saucier Mechanical; and the Stair-lift chair was serviced and battery replaced by Hudson Accessibility Products.

The Program Coordinator's report included: Renters Relief Training Program at OPM on April 6th (attended by the Program Coordinator and five volunteers); Sharyn Murphy attended a Senior Emotional Health Outreach Program (SEHOP) Commission Meeting on April 7th; and a planning meeting for the new intergenerational outreach program, "GRO" - Generations Reaching Out, April 27th; Mohegan Sun Casino trip for the "Ethel Merman Show" April 22nd (51 travelers); Hot Dog Special with Bingo held April 24th (40 attendees); and our monthly membership meeting on April 30th, followed by an Ice Cream Social (41 attendees).

Calendar House members were invited to enjoy a complimentary performance of the musical, "Once upon a Mattress", presented by DePaolo and Kennedy Middle Schools, held on April 1st at Kennedy. Calendar House buses provided transportation for 30 + members, who were delighted with the VIP treatment that included a reception and the gift of plants.

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

Under Correspondence: Minutes from the 5/6/09 Department Heads Meeting were reviewed. Of note was the non-issue of H1N1 (Swine Flu), which Southington thankfully escaped so far. Health Director Chuck Motes has diligently kept abreast of this outbreak, keeping the Executive Director fully informed. The Budget Containment Policy was discussed, since we are being very conservative in spending, we are containing!

A letter was received from AARP Chapter requesting the use of a meeting room once a month during regular hours, for the next year. We have accommodated this request for a number of years. A motion was made to grant this request by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Susan Locks; all were in favor.

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection provided a fact sheet on recent scams. This information will be communicated to our membership. Current scams of concern include: "the extended vehicle warranty"; "cell phone offers"; and a warning about leaving house and/or garage door unlocked or open when working in the back yard.

Also under Correspondence: A letter was sent to DePaolo Principal Pepe regarding the upcoming Health Fair and parking lot concerns. A letter of request for consideration for funding of our monthly newsletter, our primary communication tool, was submitted to the Joe and Kay Calvanese Foundation. The foundation has been very supportive and generous to the Calendar House in the past.

Under Old Business: The Bid for Custodial service was published; a walk-through was held on Friday, April 24; and the Bid Opening is scheduled for May 21st in the Town Manager's office. The Bids will be brought to the Commission for review at the next meeting.

Handled by the Town Attorney's office, the Lawn Service Contract was awarded to Schmidt; the Snow Removal Contract was awarded to Martins of Waterbury.

Continuing under Old Business: The 2009/2010 Budget was approved by the Town Council on May 11, 2009; there were no additions or cuts made.

The Pavilion plumbing/water connections were turned on by Santora Plumbing in preparation for opening the pavilion for seasonal use. Dlugos will have the column work completed by June 30th. An incident of unauthorized usage of the facility came to the attention of the Executive Director recently. A representative from the Census Bureau, accompanied by several other persons, entered the Calendar House on Tuesday, May 5th during a scheduled evening program. He requested the use of a room for training, remarking that they have been using the pavilion for several weeks and since it was raining and cold they would like to come inside. Unaware of any authorization, Cynthia Gilbert phoned the Executive Director and was told to ask them to leave. They did so without incident. Mr. Verderame also spoke with the trainer. The group's impression that any government building was available without prior request was of concern, and specifically their unknown and unauthorized use of the pavilion. The pavilion has since been taped off to prevent further usage.

Under New Business: The Executive Director will be attending an annual Municipal Agents Meeting on May 18th in Windsor Locks. Our Annual Health Fair is set for Wednesday, May 20th. Over 20 vendors and various screenings are scheduled. The Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibit was very successful, thanks to the combined efforts of the students, instructors and staff. The Orchard Valley Garden Club has done a wonderful job planting the parking lot islands. Many hands (and backs) worked hard to make these areas fresh and lovely.

Under Public Communication: Calendar House Member Walter Kizilski noted the favorable attendance at the Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibit, and the exceptional quality of artistry exhibited by the senior citizens. Referring to some concern the Membership Association has had regarding attendance at monthly meetings, he feels considerably reassured by the level of involvement and interest reflected by the participation at events such as the Exhibit.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** A motion to adjourn the public meeting and move into Executive Session was made by Michael Rossi; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary