

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2009

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

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

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

The minutes of the October 14, 2009 meeting were presented to the Commission. A motion was made by Lynn Maschi to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Marlene Carbone; 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), \$185,325.87 (43.4%) has been expended; \$34,927.01 remains encumbered, leaving \$287,572.12 available. Executive Director Robert Verderame noted that the building maintenance line item bears watching, since snow removal typically costs between \$12,000. and \$15,000. A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Guss Nevelos; all were in favor.

Executive Director Robert Verderame presented the **Director's and Program Coordinator's Report for October 2009**. Mr. Verderame noted that the Dial-A-Ride Program provided 913 one-way rides, with 430 medical runs. The first and second quarter State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Matching Grant payments have been received. These welcome funds will enable the Dial-A-Ride Program to provide additional service for medical transportation, with continued priority given to dialysis patients. Under Social Services, the Energy Assistance Program tops the list of appointments and inquiries. Changes in the state's requirements for documentation has led to some confusion and additional follow-up. Requests for Medicare counseling has increased. The Executive Director, Program Coordinator and volunteer Len Pedone attended a Choices Counselor Training Class in West Hartford. There are major changes in the ConnPACE program, particularly regarding the open enrollment period and the accepted insurance plans. Commissioner Sandra Micalizzi has provided some very helpful information which is much appreciated. Of note is the confirmation that there will not be a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for Social Security recipients in 2010.

Recently, one of our Calendar House members received an award for his entry in the statewide CCCI Photography Contest, which was open to seniors throughout Connecticut. One of our instructors, Pat Mottola headed the contest committee. All of the exhibiting works were amazing. Calendar House offers a digital photography class through the SeniorNet program, as well as a Digital Photography Club led by volunteer Peter Freeman.

Under Bus Maintenance: Upkeep of all four buses is tracked by the Executive Director and Calendar House Bus Driver Vincent Morelli III. Thanks to proactive and diligent preventative maintenance, we have not had any vehicle breakdowns, and our buses pass inspections without a hitch.

Under Building Maintenance: The Town Health Department conducted a routine inspection, which we passed.

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The Program Coordinator's Report included a variety of events including: a trip to Rocking Horse Resort; a Meet 'n Greet the Candidates opportunity; the popular "Italian Night" dinner, catered by Teresa's of New Britain, with entertainment by DJ Jerry Limmer; and a Hot Dog Halloween Bingo Special. We welcomed back Jackie Hackbarth who offers a monthly nurse clinic; began taking Energy Assistance applications and hosted a seasonal flu shot clinic. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group held a meeting featuring guest speaker Thomas Finn, PhD, a local psychologist. The Program Coordinator attended several training and/or informational seminars, including the previously mentioned NCAA CHOICES training; a CL&P/Yankee Gas Social Agency Forum Breakfast; as well as an Entertainment Showcase, and an on-site meeting with a local travel agent.

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: Minutes from Department Heads Meeting on November 4, 2009 were not available.

Under Old Business: With reference to the generator, this matter is in the hands of the Health Department and Town Engineer at this time. Regarding the signage for the bus and the parking lot, the Executive Director consulted the Town Attorney for verbiage and has been in touch with "Sign It Again". The VNA Seasonal Flu Shot Clinic went smoothly, with 160 individuals receiving inoculations.

Under New Business: The Transportation Committee met briefly prior to this commission meeting and offered the following report. In their effort to examine the use of resources and possible improvements in light of the ever-increasing demand for the Dial-A-Ride service, the committee intends to observe and gather information from the Calendar House staff. Of primary concern is developing a long range, future perspective, with consideration to the exploding senior population and the ever-increasing burden on all community services and resources. The committee plans to develop a survey to be distributed among the seniors themselves to assess the existing service and anticipated needs. Chairman Earl Temchin thanked the committee for their time and efforts. A brief discussion involving the official designation of committee meetings, with the continued consensus that the Town Attorney's advice would seem to indicate that committee meetings be considered "public", with public notice being given and meetings held in a public place, such as Calendar House or possibly the Library. It was noted that input from the Calendar House Membership and their Board of Directors would also be considered and appreciated.

A scheduled H1N1 Meeting to discuss planned clinics on November 13 and 14 did not take place because an actual clinic was held on November 9th. The clinic targeted specific individuals: children ages 6 months to 18 years; pregnant women; caregivers/household contacts of infants less than six months of age; and EMS, Fire, Police and Healthcare workers. Three hundred eleven persons were immunized via injection or intranasal vaccine. The Health Department and the CERT team were well organized and the event went extremely smoothly. Commissioner Lynn Maschi remarked that she had volunteered at an earlier clinic in Plainville, prior to volunteering at Calendar House and was impressed with the hospitality and efficiency of the Calendar House building and staff. Coming into the building as a nurse volunteer rather than as a "commissioner" gave her a unique perspective. Robert Verderame thanked her for her comments, noting that the experience of previous clinics and working closely with the Health Department contributed to the overall success.

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Addressing questions regarding the criteria for receiving the vaccine, Mr. Verderame noted that the "target" groups considered most at risk are determined by federal guidelines. Persons who do not meet the criteria must be turned away from a specific clinic. If necessary, the Health Director enforces the guidelines, with back up from officers on site. Additional clinics will probably be scheduled, when and if vaccine becomes available. Serum is expected to be distributed to area physicians within a reasonable timeframe.

Continuing under New Business: Discussion regarding the trash hauling/recycling bid is deferred to the next meeting. Chairman Earl Temchin has requested that Commissioners Susan Locks, Marjorie Chase and Guss Nevelos serve on the 2010/2011 Budget Committee, and they have each agreed. He further noted that this is an open committee and that all Commissioners are welcome to participate. The committee will meet one hour prior to the December 8th Commission meeting. A brief discussion regarding 2010 Commission Meeting dates opened a time change request. A motion to change the meeting time to six o'clock pm was made by Guss Nevelos, seconded by Susan Locks. Further discussion noted that several commissioners would not be able to make six o'clock pm due to work schedules, but were open to six-thirty pm. Guss Nevelos amended his motion to change the meeting time to six-thirty pm; seconded by Susan Locks; all were in favor. Notification will be submitted to the Town Clerk's office.

Under Public Communication: Calendar House member Walter Kizilski said he was under the impression that folks born before 1950 did not need the H1N1 vaccine, and asked if that could be confirmed. Lynn Maschi and Marlene Carbone responded that older persons with compromised health conditions, such as asthma, lung, and heart issues might be considered candidates for the vaccine; however, they both strongly advised that it is best to check with your own physician. Calendar House member Cliff Snow expressed appreciation to the Commissioners and the Calendar House staff for the time and effort they contribute, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ben Cammuso; seconded by Michael Rossi.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, December 8th, 2009** at 7:00 p.m.
The Budget Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Commission Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary