

MEETING OF JULY 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Earl Temchin.

Mr. Cammuso led the **Pledge of Allegiance** to the American Flag.

Members present: Ben Cammuso, Marjorie Chase, Susan Locks, Lynn Maschi, Sandra Micalizzi, Connie Proll, Michael Rossi and Earl Temchin. Members absent: Len Marcheselle

The minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting were presented to the Commission. Earl Temchin asked if there were any corrections, additions or comments. It was noted that the minutes were exceptional and very thorough. Sandra Micalizzi made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

Commissioner/Treasurer Susan Locks presented the **Treasurer's Report** stating that of the FY 2010/2011 \$468,021. revised budget, \$431,212.69 (93.8%) has been expended; \$7,662. remains encumbered, leaving an available budget of \$29,146.31. The FY 2011/2012 budget of \$481,750. reflects \$11,729.01(8.3%) expended; \$28,362.95 encumbered; with \$441,658.04 remaining.

The Senior Center Secretary noted that the revised 2010/2011 budget reflects monies transferred out by the Finance Director to be used for IT development. Although the fiscal year has ended, outstanding bills incurred prior to June 30, 2011 can be submitted until July 22, 2011. The remaining encumbered balances will be expended upon receipt of invoices. A motion was made by Ben Cammuso to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor.

In the absence of Executive Director Robert Verderame, Program Coordinator Sharyn Murphy presented the **June 2011 Director's and Program Coordinator's Reports**, noting that Dial-a-Ride provided a record 1431 one way rides on 22 days, including 619 in town medical rides and 125 out of town medical rides. Sixteen new members joined in June, and the Nutrition Program served 650 meals. Under Social Services, she remarked that 168 renters rebate applications were processed. There is a continuing issue regarding state budgetary concerns which may result in a reduction of benefits, so the amount to be rebated cannot be calculated at this time. Sharyn also noted that the timing of our blood pressure clinics is changing to the morning in an effort to serve more individuals. The NCAA Choices Training Session was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a future date. Calendar House was designated as a "cooling place" on June 8th and 9th by the Town Manager and Town Attorney, to provide safe haven during the extreme heat. We did not experience an unusual amount of folks during these days.

Sharyn noted that the Executive Director had reported an incident of vandalism in an around the pavilion that occurred on June 8th. The split rail fence marking the entrance to the pavilion area was demolished and several benches were destroyed beyond repair. The Town Manager, Town Attorney, Senior Citizen Commission Chairman and the Southington Police Department were notified. Sharyn added that additional damage to several benches was observed after the 4th of July. This event was also reported by the Executive Director to the appropriate individuals. Commissioner Sandra Micalizzi remarked that the area is very dark and secluded.

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Continuing, Sharyn Murphy offered the Program Coordinator's Report, highlighting the DePaolo Middle School Band and Concert Choir performance, always a favorite with the seniors; a trip to NYC to view the Pompeii Exhibit; and a Bagel Breakfast with Registered Dietician Anna Russo. Also of note was the Country Western Night, a popular evening event, catered by the Hen House with entertainment by Jerry Limmer. Our members really enjoy dancing and line dances are particularly appreciated, actively involving those without partners to participate without feeling out of place. Renters Relief applications were taken on site at four of the senior housing locations.

Town Manager Garry Brumback was the featured speaker at the Membership Meeting. The seniors appreciated the opportunity to meet him informally. Mr. Brumback complimented the town and its residents, sharing future goals and objectives for Southington. In an open dialogue, he responded to various questions and comments. Commissioner Micalizzi mentioned the "good press" provided in local newspaper articles.

Michael Rossi made a motion to accept the Director's and Program Coordinator's Report; seconded by Ben Cammuso; all were in favor. Earl thanked Sharyn for providing those reports.

Under Correspondence: Minutes from the July Department Heads Meeting were available. Of interest was the Although Calendar House staff were unable to attend the Workplace Violence and Harassment workshop, the Senior Center Secretary requested that literature be available. Assistant Fire Chief Wisner delivered the information to her earlier today. Cynthia Gilbert referred to the Finance Department report regarding the year end requirements assuring the commission that we are in complete compliance. She also mentioned the Town Manager's update concerning a serious potential problem regarding Route 10 paving that was averted. The incident serves to accentuate the need for coordination among all town departments and entities. A note of appreciation was received from Lila Nyren expressing appreciation for the community garden. The Greater Southington Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee has requested the use of the building on October 20, 2011 to hold a public debate involving the Town Council candidates. Calendar House could provide transportation for senior citizens if requested. Michael Rossi made a motion to approve this request; seconded by Lynn Maschi; all were in favor.

Under Old Business: With reference to the Tremco work on the roof, the Commission expressed concern regarding the leak in the skylight. Sharyn Murphy stated that the contractor has agreed to check it out, but has delayed due to illness. Earl Temchin requested a memo be sent to the Building Committee notifying them of the skylight leak. Since they have had the lead on this project, they should be kept informed in the event that the design of the repair or the execution of the repair was done incorrectly. Regarding the newsletter, since the Commission has already approved Priority Graphics LLC, review of the requested contract is in order. Lynn Maschi commented that it appears clear and concise. Sandra Micalizzi asked if additional copies could be obtained, and was assured they could be. She remarked that after doing considerable research, she feels this will be a wonderful thing for Calendar House. Earl Temchin concurred and noted that it will take a huge burden off the staff and the volunteers. Lynn Maschi made a motion that we accept the proposed contract and proceed with the project; seconded by Michael Rossi; all were in favor.

Under Transportation Committee: Questions were raised as to how the status of the 2000 bus was determined. Sharyn Murphy responded that Bus Driver Vincent Morelli routinely examines all the buses, and noting stress fractures and additional rusting on the 2000 bus, felt that it needed to be checked further. The Executive Director requested that Aszklars examine the bus and offer a determination which they did. Earl Temchin noted that the Executive Director had notified him of the situation. This bus was purchased by the town and was not undercoated. It has been garaged for the past five years, but has had extensive use particularly in inclement weather. Sandra Micalizzi requested that a listing of additional transportation be compiled and made available to the bus riders and other individuals requesting transportation information. She mentioned a "Dial-a-Ride" program offered by CW Resources that might provide transportation from Southington to Waterbury. Sharyn Murphy remarked she was not familiar with that, and Sandra offered to look into it.

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Continuing under Transportation Committee: Considerable discussion regarding the relocation of the buses ensued. Referring to the memo that the Executive Director sent to Mr. Pocock, Sharyn noted that inquiry has been made regarding surveillance cameras but information has not yet been received. Lynn Maschi had also contacted the Police Department but has not yet received a response. The electrician did confirm that four parking lot lights are connected and rewiring would be cost prohibitive, however motion sensor lights could be affixed to the building, but has not submitted an estimate as yet. Connie Proll asked to be allowed to rescind the motion she made at the June Commission Meeting. In hindsight she felt strongly she had been “way too hasty”, not fully understanding the situation or having all the pertinent information, particularly relating to the vandalism incidents we have experienced, and the fact that the current parking arrangement with Aszkars has been working well. She also spoke with the Police Department. She remarked that should problems arise with the buses, help would not be at hand for assistance, such as jumping the battery, etc. Connie made a motion to rescind the prior motion approving action under the direction of the Commissioners to have the buses relocated and parked on site at the Calendar House; seconded by Michael Rossi; approved by Marjorie Chase, Connie Proll, Michael Rossi, Ben Cammuso and Susan Locks; opposed by Earl Temchin, Sandra Micalizzi and Lynn Maschi; motion carried by majority. Sandra Micalizzi remarked that she is in agreement with Connie at this time, for the short term, but it will need to be revisited in the long term, noting that the reversal of the action is vandalism driven and security options will need to be researched. Lynn Maschi continued to disagree stating that the buses are our property and belong on site, as an issue of accountability. Connie Proll remarked that the early morning runs are critical and delay in repair of buses could compromise essential services. Earl Temchin asked if the buses leave directly from Aszkars or begin the runs at Calendar House, and wondered if anyone knows when the buses are actually on the road. He also said he is mystified at the contrast in vandalism, wondering why we are targeted. Cynthia Gilbert replied that the runs begin directly from Aszkars and contact is made with the drivers shortly after 8 am by the Executive Director; and the past week in his absence by herself. Connie noted that we are in a residential area, across from a school and we have a big inviting parking lot. Discussion returned to the issue of vandalism, with Michael Rossi expressing much concern about the pavilion, noting it is his priority to resolve this. Sandra wondered if other locations in town are experiencing similar instances. Connie replied absolutely especially around schools and the Trail. The Commissioners were in agreement that consideration be given to ways that the vandalism can be minimized or prevented. Sharyn Murphy noted that the old police cruiser that the Executive Director had discussed with the Police Chief could possibly be used to augment transportation. It was noted that the staff meeting with the Commission will be scheduled for one hour prior to the September 13th Commission Meeting. Connie Proll inquired as to the purpose of the meeting. Earl Temchin replied that a previous meeting has been very helpful in improving communication between the staff and commission including and not limited to transportation issues and it was felt that periodic meetings be scheduled. He directed the Senior Center Secretary to notify all staff members requesting their attendance.

Under New Business: It was noted that routine maintenance issues such as interior painting and floor cleaning are essential issues to be done on an as needed basis. It was not clear how the maintenance contract proposed by Tremco involved the commission since it had fallen under the jurisdiction of the building committee. Earl Temchin noted that some kind of warranty should be applicable. Michael Rossi made a motion to table any discussion; seconded by Connie Proll; all were in favor.

Public Communication: Mark White indicated that he was pleased at the resolution of the newsletter issue only regretting the cost of the delay. He wondered if the pavilion benches could be stored inside. Cliff Snow replied that the grills and tables are stored inside the pavilion and there isn't any room. The tables that were broken are wooden and very heavy, as are the benches. Mark White further remarked that it was the right decision to delay parking the buses on site until the vandalism is addressed and we can make sure that this is a secure location before exposing valuable assets. If local kids are creating the problem, can parents be notified? Connie noted that the problem is all over town. The Chamber is offering a reward for information on the trail vandalism. Earl stated that the points are well taken and we will proceed with the possibility of installing surveillance cameras. A number of other suggestions were offered and will be taken under advisement. Walter Kizilski noted that the positioning of the building makes it hard to observe the area, sensor lights might deter. He suggested “gutter guards” if leaf accumulation is an issue on the building. He wished everyone a safe and happy summer. Sandra Micalizzi offered a suggestion to explore community colleges for assistance with renovations of the building interior.

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A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ben Cammuso, seconded by Sandra Micalizzi. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Immediately following the meeting, the Commissioners, staff and members of the public walked out to the pavilion to observe the damage and potential positioning of motion lights and cameras.

The next Senior Citizens Commission meeting will be held **Tuesday, September 13th, 2011** at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a joint meeting of the Commission and the Calendar House staff.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Gilbert
Senior Center Secretary