

DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2009

ATTENDANCE: Joseph Pankowski, Chair; Karen Joelson, Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan, Amy Squyres, Tom Valentino, Robin Woods

ABSENT: Jennifer Geddes, Mary Giarrantana, Ron Heinbaugh

OTHERS: Beth Paris (Senior Center Coordinator)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pankowski called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Ms. Morgan expressed displeasure that arriving late for the September and October meetings was noted within the Minutes. She felt it was overkill that it was noted in the Attendance section and within the body of the Minutes. Mr. Pankowski said that at the October meeting a Motion already had been passed before her arrival and that matter had to be re-opened for discussion to bring Ms. Morgan up to date.

**** MR. PANKOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE THAT A LATE COMMISSION MEMBER'S NAME AND ARRIVAL TIME BE NOTED WITHIN THE BODY OF THE MINUTES AND THE TIME NOT BE NOTED IN THE ATTENDANCE SECTION.**

**** MS. WOODS SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Joelson resigned from the Commission effective immediately. She cited personal reasons, in that she needs to spend more time at home. Ms. Morgan, Mr. Pankowski and others expressed sincere thanks for her contributions and that she contributed much to the Commission on Aging.

Mr. Pankowski said that at least two replacements need to be named to the board. The Republican and Democratic nominating chairs will be contacted on this matter.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2009 MINUTES

The following change was made to the October Minutes.

Strike – Page 1, Paragraph 3, line 4, Ms. Morgan arrived after the vote and, upon being informed of the same, replace with

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Ms. Morgan asked that the Minutes be mailed to her.

- ** **MR. VALENTINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**
- ** **MS. MORGAN SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Squyres revisited the liaison position since Ms. Santarella is no longer taking on that role. Mr. Pankowski said that there may be no one designated and that we should wait until such time to discuss. Anyone can attend our meeting and be an observer, he said. The board agreed that all the Selectmen should be invited to any and all of the Commission on Aging meetings. This will keep the lines of communication open.

Ms. McCarthy will present her report at the December meeting on Library Services for Seniors.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Ms. Paris read her November monthly report as follows:

She said that the internet and e-mail is set up at the Center. Her e-mail address is eparis@darienct.gov, and Ms. Lewis' e-mail is clewis@darienct.gov.

On the 4th was flower arranging with the Darien Garden Club

Also on the 4th was high tea cookie, martini entertaining

On the 10th was helping seniors remain in their own homes with Lea Mintz of Family and Children Agency of Norwalk

On the 18th was the center's Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings and special entertainment

Also on the 18th was grandparent's story time with Darien librarians

On the 21st the Holiday bazaar from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On the 23rd, Serendipity Chorale

Planned trips included -

On the 4th to Mohegan Sun

On the 5th to the Metropolitan Museum and

The 18th to Arthur Avenue in the Bronx

Ms. Paris represented Darien at the SWCAA Advisory Board meeting on November 4.

She attended the AARP chapter #972 meeting at the center.

Items in the works include

- working on volunteer job descriptions and assignments
- exploring possible State mandates that affect senior centers
- preparing new and renewal membership drive forms.

She also spoke about the Agency of Aging & Independent Living and noted -

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Effective January 1, 2010, all state-funded participants with income at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level (\$1806 month/2009) will be required to make a 15 percent co-payment to the cost of their care. Those whose income exceeds 200% of the FPL will be required to make the 15 percent co-payment over and above their current applied income levels.

The majority of SWCAA/CT Home Care Program clients are Title XIX and will not be affected by the new requirements.

Ms. Paris mentioned that too much emphasis is being placed on the oldness of the senior center building and the focus needs to be shifted on all the great programs that are being offered. She believes the new library is the primary location for communications. DCA is another source.

Ms. Paris mentioned that the roof has been repaired about 30 times this year. The boiler is old (1950's) and is a big concern if it fails, as the Center would possibly be closed. The old library would be an alternate place to go.

Mr. Pankowski said that a small sub-committee needs to be formed to address the building issue and what seniors want. Ms. Squyres and Mr. Valentino will do some preliminary work towards this end and report back to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Squyres spoke about Aging in Place. She said the recent survey had good results and will discuss them at next month's meeting.

Ms. Squyres inquired when the Christmas program will take place. Ms. Paris said December 23 at noon including lunch.

There was a concern that efforts are being duplicated among the different groups. She was impressed at how aware the seniors are. It is important to let the people know what services are available and what is going on.

Mr. Pankowski asked if Ms. Paris would like a story in the local newspaper and she answered in the affirmative. He has a contact and will help with the arrangements.

Ms. Paris also brought in for the board a copy of the November Senior Center Newsletter with a calendar of events. The newsletter was colorful, very informative, and well written.

OTHER

Ms. Morgan referred back to the Minutes. She also requested that the Next Meeting Date and time be noted on the Minutes. It already is noted on the Agenda. Mr. Pankowski agreed to have the 'Next Meeting Date' noted on both the Minutes and Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. SQUIRES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MS. WOODS SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting – December 16, 9:00 a.m., Room 119, Darien Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Hohlweck