

DURHAM SENIOR CITIZENS BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2006

The meeting of the Durham Senior Board was called to order by Chairman Lainy Melvin, at 1:30 P.M. on the third floor meeting room of the Durham Town Hall. Members present were Althea Parmelee, Howard Kelley, Henry Robinson, Henry Coe, Mary DiMella, and Lainy Melvin. Absent members were John Hogarth, George Zeeb, and Shirley Bielefield. Also present were Sherry Hill and Jan Muraca and Eugene Chiapeta , President of the Durham Fair Association.

Lainy Melvin spoke about meeting at the former Rod and Gun Club property on Route 79, Madison Road. The developers of the property, DR&G Club LLC. and JRD Development LLC. have offered approximately 13 acres of land to the town for use as a senior center. There is about 268 feet frontage on Route 79. The land is beautiful but very rocky, and with some wet land. Others commented that considerable expensive site work would have to be done before even considering building. Tests would have to be made for a septic system, possibly an engineered system more than likely.

Discussion continued on the possibility of whether we could accept the offer of 13 acres, with an open space designation, which could be used as a senior center, with a condition that if after thorough exploration, the site turns out to be unsuitable for a senior center, that the property remain as town owned open space.

Henry Robinson made a motion, seconded by Henry Coe, to authorize the Chairman to respond to the offer, expressing our concerns about development, and stating our thought on open space. Motion carried.

Gene Chiapeta, President of the Durham Fair Association, reported the feeling of Directors of the Fair, that they are anxious to help the seniors in town have a home. And that they are willing to explore and assist avenues to make this possible. There are several sites under consideration, the existing President's Building, property behind the Downes house on Canfield Lane, and property on Maple Avenue. The property would be leased to the Town, on a long term lease. Government grants would still be available for help in building the senior center even though the town would not own the land. The needs of the senior group would be roughly 6,000 square feet. There probably would be a restriction that the building not be available for use during a period of time during the annual fair, for obvious reasons. At this time, all this is only in the exploratory stage.

Lainy reported that at an Emergency Services meeting, it was brought up that a possible senior center building should have the ability to house 150 seniors in an emergency.

The regularly scheduled meeting for December 28th, will not be held, and the next meeting will be January 25, 2007.

A motion to adjourn by made by Henry Robinson, seconded by Howard Kelley and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary DiMella
Secretary