

MEETING MINUTES
DURHAM SENIOR CITIZENS BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2007

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

Tom Arcari and Eric M. Gruettner of the firm of Quisenberry Arcari, Architects, were present.

Discussion centered on the tabulation of the questionnaires regarding a proposed senior center as returned. There were 150 returns which was encouraging. Tom Arcari mentioned that a questionnaire in Middletown generated a return of about 40 which is surprising since Middletown is so much bigger than Durham.

Comments on what was of most interest to those responding were also listed and discussed.

In regard to a site for the senior center, the property on Guilford Road and Cream Pot Road, the current Highway Department headquarters, was discussed. Also, there are two lots at the corner of Route 17 and Meeting House Hill which are for sale with prices in the \$200,000 range.

Tom Arcari presented a drawing representing the proposed building for the Durham Senior Center, incorporating those features discussed at previous meetings. He stated that in two weeks he would have available a drawing which would show the proposed outside of the senior center, including floor plans, parking area, and cost estimates.

On a question as to the donation of his time and effort, he said that he will continue to offer his services at no cost except if there is a rendering of a three dimensional view of the building.

On a discussion of size, there seems to be a universal complaint from towns with senior centers, that the centers are too small, and several are already enlarging centers recently built.

The proposed drawing does not include a basement, and a comment was made there should be an area for custodial services. It was agreed to meet in two weeks, November 8th at 1:30 P.M. to view the drawing.

In other matter, the art classes currently being taught by Aleta Gudelski are up and running with nine enthusiastic students. Hopefully, the classes can be extended due to the interest in the program.

Jan reported on a new pilot program being offered by the state, with grant money available, to enable disabled persons to live in the community, in their homes with help from the outside, so they can maintain some quality of life. It is a given that it is cheaper to live in your own home as

opposed to going to a convalescent home. There are some income restrictions. Jan has the available information.

First Selectman James McLaughlin came to the meeting for a short time. He discussed briefly the property on Mountain Road being considered for the Town Garage and the current Town Garage being considered for a senior center.

The local flu shots will be held on November 2nd but you do have to register ahead of time, and Jan has been inundated with calls.

Sherry passed around the proposed flyer for the Senior program activities for 2007 – 2008 for comments. After review, Shirley Bielefield made a motion to approve the flyer for mailing, with a second by John Hogarth and the motion was carried.

A date was set for reviewing the Highway Department site on November 1st at 1:30 P.M.

Shirley Bielefield made a motion to adjourn, with a second by John Hogarth. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary G. DiMella
Secretary