

SENIOR CITIZENS BOARD

Thursday, February 25, 2010

1:30 PM, Durham Town Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:33 PM by Chairman Lainy Melvin at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Roll Call: Members present: Anne Cassady, Henry Coe, Norman Hicks, Stu Keating, Lainy Melvin, Beverly Pedersen, Shari Slight and Karin Thody. Staff present: Trish Dynia, Sherry Hill and Jan Muraca. Others present: First Selectwoman Laura Francis. Members absent: John Hogarth.

Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made by Henry Coe, seconded by Beverly Pedersen, to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

Welcome to New Member: Chairman Melvin introduced and welcomed new board member Shari Slight.

Human Services Director: Jan Muraca distributed information regarding a town website link where residents can sign up to receive meeting cancellation notices. She also reported that the Senior Tax Relief filing period began on February 1st and will end on May 15th, 2010.

Jan announced that two people have signed up for the writing class and asked if the senior computer class will be offered again soon. Anne Cassady replied that the instructor who taught the course is currently not available and she has not heard back from the School Superintendent about a replacement. Anne will follow up again with the Superintendent to see if someone can be found to teach the course in the fall.

Jan noted that May is Older Americans Month and the month during which we generally scheduled the Spring Fling for seniors.

Recreation Director: Sherry Hill asked the Board to set a date for the Spring Fling. The board tentatively scheduled the event for May 14th. Sherry will follow up on reserving the firehouse for this event. Sherry also reported that all programs are running smoothly.

Old Business, Durham Activity Center: First Selectwoman Laura Frances reported that the Board of Selectmen included money for a Durham Activity Center in the proposed 2010/2011 budget. The estimated budget is between

\$37,000 and \$38,000 and includes the basics as discussed at last month's meeting. There will be no increase in personnel. Build out estimates for carpeting and kitchenette are forthcoming. No partitions will be put in place until a logical layout becomes apparent once activities have begun. The town crew would be responsible for plowing the lot. Laura requested that Board members share this information with people and watch and participate in the budget process.

Stu Keating noted that the \$300,000 that had been put aside for the purchase of a building for senior activities went back into the general fund last year. Recently, the Board of Finance recommended that \$183,000 be taken from the line item to pay for a new Fire truck. The proposal was approved at a town meeting. Stu further noted that when the \$300,000 was transferred out, the Board of Finance stated that if an appropriate site were found, they would look for a way to finance it.

Old Business, Writing Course: Lainy announced that they had found a new teacher for the writing course. Due to recent changes in the Town Charter, Anne Cassady can no longer teach the course because board members cannot receive payment for services rendered to the Board.

Old Business, Budget: Lainy stated she removed the \$3000 line item for a Wii purchase from the 2010/2011 budget.

New Business, Election of Officers: *A motion was made by Anne Cassady, seconded by Norm Hicks, to approve the following officers to serve through June 30, 2010: Lainy Melvin, Chairman, Henry Coe Vice Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.*

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Henry Coe, seconded by Beverly Pedersen, to approve the January 28, 2010 minutes with the following changes: Page 2, sentence beginning at line 5 should read as follows: "The program would offer deferred home loans. The Town of Durham could receive up to \$300,000 in grant funds." The motion passed unanimously.*

Miscellaneous: Stu Keating announced that Wii has come out with a Fit Plus system that has more exercise options and is senior friendly.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Norm Hicks, seconded by Stu Keating, to adjourn the meeting at 2:33 PM. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia, Recording Secretary

cc: Town Clerk, Recreation Director, Human Services Director, Board Members