

SENIOR CITIZENS BOARD

Thursday, April 23, 2009

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:36 PM by Chairman Lainy Melvin at the Durham Town Hall.

Roll Call: Members present: Anne Cassady, Henry Coe, Stuart Keating, Lainy Melvin and Hank Robinson. Staff present: Trish Dynia, Sherry Hill and Jan Muraca. Others Present: Sue Wimler and Tom Wimler. Members absent: Shirley Bielefield, Becky Anderson, Howard Kelley and John Hogarth.

Recreation Director: Sherry Hill reported that the fire department has approved use of their hall for the May 22nd Spring Fling. The event will be publicized in the Town Times and will likely attract as many as, or more senior's than last year's event.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Henry Coe, seconded by Stu Keating, to approve the March 26, 2009 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

New Business/Ambulance Corp: Sue and Tom Wimler spoke on behalf of the Durham Volunteer Ambulance Corp, who wishes to provide information to seniors regarding ambulance use. Over the years there have been misconceptions regarding established emergency procedures and billing processes, which have at times made seniors reluctant to call an ambulance when it was appropriate to do so. The Ambulance Corp would like to provide information that would reduce anxieties surrounding emergency needs.

After a brief discussion it was determined that the Ambulance Corp will conduct an Emergency Medical Information Seminar on Tuesday, June 9 in the 3rd floor meeting room at Town Hall. Interested residents can attend at 1 PM or 7 PM. The event will be announced at the Spring Fling, 60+ Club and senior classes, as well as in church bulletins and the Town Times. In addition, the Corp will distribute fliers advertising the event at prominent locations around town.

At the seminar, the ambulance billing person will be on hand to answer any questions. The Corp will also distribute a form on which seniors write down

pertinent medical information, such as conditions, allergies, and medications, and place it in a prominent location, such as on the refrigerator.

Questions generated at the seminar will be utilized to compose an FAQ sheet for distribution around town.

New Business/Art Class Expenses: After a brief discussion regarding ways in which the costs related to the art classes can be defrayed, it was determined that Lainy will speak with art class teacher Aleta Gudelski regarding art supply costs. Mrs. Gudelski's input will be helpful in determining whether or not there will be a moderate increase in enrollment fees.

Human Services Director: Jan Muraca reported that there will be a reminder in the May 1st Town Times that the deadline for applying for the tax freeze and deferment program is May 15. Qualifying participants must be age 65 or disabled, cannot make over \$37,300 annually if married, and the maximum rebate is \$900.

On Friday, May 1st, the Mental Health Association of Connecticut will conduct a seminar on stress management at the Durham Public Library at 2 PM. The event is open to the public. Seniors and caregivers are especially urged to attend.

Old Business/Senior Breakfast: Lainy reported that High View Health Care Center will not be conducting the breakfast program due to personnel shortages.

Old Business/Senior Computer Classes: During a recent conversation with Lainy, Superintendent of Schools Sue Vicarro stated that the senior computer classes were well attended and there were no logistical problems. Anne Cassady will compose a letter to the Town Times thanking all involved in this partnership between the schools and senior committee.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Stu Keating, seconded by Anne Cassady, to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 PM. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia
Recording Secretary

cc: Town Clerk, Recreation Director, Human Services Director, Committee Members.