

## REGULAR MEETING INFORMAL MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2009  
1:30 PM, Durham Town Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Becky Anderson, John Hogarth, Stuart Keating and Lainy Melvin. Staff: Trish Dynia, Sherry Hill and Jan Muraca. Guests: Ann Cassidy. \*

**\*Five members constitute a quorum. There were only four in attendance. No votes were taken but the following discussions took place:**

**Chairman's Report:** Lainy Melvin distributed the 2009 meeting schedule, fiscal year 2009/2010 budget and pictures of the former "Hall" house on Main Street south of the firehouse. This property has been identified as a possible senior center location. Lainy also introduced Anne Cassidy who would soon be appointed as a new member.

**Human Services Director's Report:** Jan Muraca reported that tax relief applications are now available in the Assessor and Human Services offices. The program runs from February 1 to May 15. Anne Cassidy's writing class was very popular and will be offered again, possibly in a less structured format. The senior computer class is being offered in the spring adult education brochure that was recently mailed to Durham and Middlefield residents. Members discussed the possibility of offering a general health fair, but these have been unsuccessful in the past. Lectures held at the library on specific health issues have also not been well-attended.

**Recreation Director's Report:** Sherry Hill reported that she is looking for alternative bingo prizes. She normally purchases gift items from Durham Pharmacy because the town has an account there. Stuart Keating suggested that she could also purchase gift cards for other establishments at the pharmacy.

**Senior Data Base:** Stuart Keating offered to build a senior data base which could be used for a variety of purposes, including government webcasts on upcoming events, vote and recall alerts, general information, etc. Becky Anderson noted that there are a lot of aging baby boomers seeking information for themselves and/or elderly parents they are caring for. It was decided that those caring for seniors should also be able to sign up for the data base, as should individuals of all ages with disabilities. Sherry offered to put something in the Town Times and

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upcoming brochure letting people know they can sign up for this service. Jan will talk to Webmaster/Town Clerk Kim Garvis about creating a variety of informational links for seniors from the social services page on the town's website.

**Gatekeepers Program:** Becky Anderson suggested that the town participate in this nationwide program which utilizes key personnel (such as postal delivery workers and Meals on Wheels deliverers) to alert the town if an individual may be in danger or otherwise have a need for town services. Commission members had concerns about individual privacy and opted to give this proposal more thought.

There being nothing further to discuss, Chairman Melvin adjourned the informal meeting at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia  
Recording Secretary

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