

From: SimsburyCT Postings September 20, 2010 9:55:20 AM
Subject: Aging and Disability Commission Minutes 09/14/2010
To: SimsburyCT_Aging
Cc:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION

September 14, 2010

Special Meeting Minutes

Chairperson, Edward LaMontagne called the meeting to order in the Old Court Room at Eno Memorial Hall, Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Vic Bible, Grace Comeau, Kathy Fallon, Mona Herman, Mike Jennings, Marvin Koff, Carrie Kramer, Ed LaMontagne, Mary Ellen Long, Mona Martinik, Mark Orenstein, Arlene Zappile, Joe Loewy, ex officio (Simsbury Housing Authority), John Hampton (Board of Selectman liaison), Kathleen Marschall, (Senior Center Coordinator)

Excused: Tom Doran, Charlotte Steptoe, Lynn Veith

Public Audience: There was no public audience.

New Commissioner: Mr. LaMontagne introduced and welcomed Mr. Vic Bible, who was recently appointed as an alternate member of the commission.

Minutes, Previous Meeting: The meeting minutes from June 15, 2010 were reviewed and accepted with spelling and grammatical corrections.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Picnic In The Park

Mr. LaMontagne thanked Ms. Steptoe for the excellent job she did once again this year with the planning of the Picnic in the Park event. Over 100 people attended and this year we were fortunate to have a large number of volunteers to provide assistance. Mr. LaMontagne also thanked all of the commissioners who attended and provided assistance.

Souper Tuesday - Grace Comeau

Ms. Comeau stated that the first Souper Tuesday event of the year will be held on September 21st. Kathleen Marshall stated that Fitzgerald's lowered the price of the soup. The lunch will now cost \$4.00 per person versus \$5.25 per person.

A copy of the Souper Tuesday financials was distributed.

The 2010-11 dates for the Souper Tuesday events are as follows:
September 21, 2010; October 19, 2010 (Fashion Show); November 16, 2010;
March 22, 2011; April 12, 2011(Tariffville Students); May 17, 2011

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SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Disability Needs Assessment - Mike Jennings

Mr. Jennings reviewed the results of the recent Disability Needs Survey. A total of fifty one surveys were returned. Of these four were completed on line. The survey will now be compiled into a report which will be distributed to the First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, and other appropriate town officials. Mr. Jennings also offered recommendations as to where the commission should be concentrating their efforts going forward.

Housing - Joe Loewy

Mr. Loewy stated that one of the residents in Virginia Connelly turned one hundred years old recently. A tree was planted in her honor.

Public Relations - Carrie Kramer

Ms. Kramer stated that Buzz Holmes from SCTV would like to have commission members on his Our Simsbury TV show. Ms. Kramer, Ms. Martinik and Mr. LaMontagne would be on the show, which will be scheduled for October or November.

Senior/Community Center Assessment - Mona Martinik

Ms. Martinik had a conversation with Ms. Charity Folk, Executive Director of the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, who provided her with several realtors for Ms. Martinik to contact. Ms. Martinik will be asking the realtors if there is any land available for a potential new Senior Center. A meeting will be scheduled with First Selectman Mary Glassman, Deputy First Selectman John Hampton, Ms. Martinik and Mr. LaMontagne in October to discuss the potential of a new senior center. Ms. Martinik also provided the commission with an update on the Eno Memorial Hall renovations.

Tax Relief Update – E. LaMontagne/J. Hampton

Mr. Hampton stated that the Simsbury Board of Education is currently working on a plan for proceeding with Senior Citizens Assisting Education. \$5,000 has been set aside for this program. The plan may include providing seniors, who volunteer, with debit cards or gift certificates.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT - Kathleen Marschall, Senior Center Coordinator
Ms. Marshall distributed copies of the Sept./Oct. newsletter, which was printed by Senior Publishing out of Boston. The Police Department picnic for seniors was held last week with over 200 people attending. The Wednesday lunch program still has a waiting list of five to six people every week. A flu shot clinic will be held on October 26th by the Simsbury VNA. Cost is \$38.00. New classes for the fall include, ballroom dancing and how to use a cell phone

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OLD BUSINESS

Schools and Senior Outreach

Mr. Loewy updated Commission members on the current status of this new program. The group is considering having a pass available for seniors to attend school functions for free during the school year. A Social Studies teacher will be producing a video about the lives of individuals residing at Virginia Connelly. The video will be made available to the individuals families. The group is attempting to increase communication between the school system and seniors. It was suggested that a column titled "Happenings at School" be put in the Senior Communicator. The School and Senior Outreach committee has been invited to attend the October Aging and Disability Commission meeting.

Accessibility Issue at Henry James Memorial School

Mr. LaMontagne shared information regarding accessibility issues at Henry James Middle School, which arose during the town budget vote in May. He has made contact with Dr. Ullman, Superintendent of Schools to determine what can be done to make access into the school more acceptable. Mr. LaMontagne will now contact Sue Lemke, principal at Henry James Memorial School, where the accessibility issue appears to be most prevalent.

Financial Update

Mr. LaMontagne distributed the Commission's Budget Fund Reconciliation. As of September 14th the commission has \$1,200.00 remaining. There is also

\$471.88 remaining in the Picnic in the Park fund, however we have yet to receive the food bill from Kane's.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Selectman Appointment

Mr. LaMontagne reported that the Board of Selectman appointed a student liaison to the Commission at their meeting on September 13th. Mr. Tim Lim will be joining the Commission at the October meeting. Mr. Lim is a sophomore at Simsbury High School and was appointed by Mr. Neil Sullivan, Principal.

Commission Membership

Mr. LaMontagne has developed a new listing of current members with names, addresses, phone numbers and emails. The document will be ready for distribution at next month's commission meeting. Anyone not wishing to have their information listed should contact Mr. LaMontagne.

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2010-2011 Meeting Dates

Mr. LaMontagne stated that the Commission will be conducting their 2010-2011 meetings in the Youth Room at Eno Memorial Hall. A listing of the 2011 meeting dates will need to be sent in to the town clerk in December, but the commission traditionally meets the second Tuesday of the month with the exception of July, August and December.

Numbering of Property

The town recently sent out a reminder on their web site titled, "Numbering Your Home", to remind citizens to post highly visible numbers on their house and property. Mr. LaMontagne met with John Mimnaugh from the Simsbury Police Department to determine if the Aging and Disability Commission could provide assistance. One of the ways discussed was to put a flyer in an edition of the Senior Communicator. This was done in the Sept./Oct. issue. Another possibility would be to provide assistance to seniors and/or persons with disabilities with numbering their house. This could be accomplished with the assistance of a local Boy Scout troop.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Koff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Next meeting: October 19 2010, Eno Memorial Hall

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. LaMontagne

E. J. LaMontagne for Lynn Veith, Clerk