

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2016
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

The regular meeting of the Aging and Disability Commission was held on March 15, 2016 in the Youth Room – ENO Memorial Hall – 754 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT

PRESENT

Janet Beatty, Victor Bible, Margaret Diachenko, Lorraine Doonan, Mike Jennings, Marvin Koff, Ed LaMontagne, Mary Ellen Long, April Schmidt, Arlene Zappile, Kathleen Marshall (Senior Center Coordinator)

EXCUSED

Grace Comeau, Mona Herman, Mona Martinik, Mark Orenstein, Diana Yeisley, Cheryl Cook (BOS Liaison)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Edward J. LaMontagne, Chairman at 7:09 PM.

Mr. Bible and Ms. Doonan were asked to serve as regular members for this meeting.

Ms. April Schmidt was introduced as a new member of the commission. She comes with varied experiences that will be beneficial to the commission.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited

BOARD OF SELECTMAN LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Cook could not attend due to her attendance at the Board of Finance meeting. Mr. LaMontagne stated that Ms. Cook wanted to mention that the Simsbury Community for Care committee is planning an event on April 6th at 6 PM in the Simsbury Library Program Room. There will be a panel discussion regarding depression, anxiety as well as treatment options and what to look for in older adults.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

A St. Patrick's Day party was held last week and 110 seniors attended. A vision support group was started approximately five months ago. Representative from CRIS Radio came to the Senior Center last week and gave a free internet radio to the Center. Ms. Marshall distributed applications for access to printed material, via the internet radio, to members of the Commission.

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PROGRAM REPORTS

Souper Tuesday

- March 8th Event
Approximately 70 people attended. Members of the Simsbury Lion's Club helped to serve.
- Ms. Marshall will talk to Ms. Comeau to see where plans for the fashion show in May stand. Ms. Marshall will put May and June Souper Tuesdays in the Senior Communicator newsletter. The Junior Women's Club will be recognized at the last Souper Tuesday event of the year for baking the desserts for the Souper Tuesday events throughout the year.
- As of November 23, 2015 there was a balance of \$669.90, which is enough for two more Souper Tuesday events. The Simsbury Women's Club will not be donating this year; however the Simsbury Granby Rotary Club will donate the club's fines for the month of May. Ed will send a letter to First Church to solicit a donation.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior/Community Center Update

The architectural company attended the February Public Building Committee Meeting and presented three options for the Senior/Community Center. Most favorably received was Concept B where the Senior/Community Center would be located north of the existing dog park. The north side of building would have a covered portico for pick up and drop off. The dog park would be relocated across the roadway. The architects still have to do drawings of the 17,500 square feet of interior space, which is based on a consultant's program report.

New Brochure Status

The new brochure has been approved. Mr. LaMontagne will follow up with the Town Clerk for permission to use the town logo on the brochures. Staples can print the brochures; however we will need to find money to offset the cost.

Fall Seminar

Ms. Doonan, Mr. Bible, and Ms. Marshall met to discuss plans for a seminar which would be sponsored by the Aging and Disability Commission. Ms. Doonan presented a synopsis of their meeting. The seminar would be for all adults to provide general information. The seminars would be held in the Simsbury Library Program Room from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tentative dates are September 25th, October 25th, and November 29th. The group is considering doing a series of 3 monthly seminars on a variety of topics. Commissioners agreed that the seminars would be a good idea. Ms. Marshall will confirm the dates with the library. Ms. Schmidt will join the organizing group.

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Nominating Committee Report

Mary Ellen reported unanimous choice of Ed LaMontagne as Chairman, Diana Yeisley as Vice Chairman and Jan Beatty as Clerk. Mr. Bible made the motion to approve the slate and Ms. Diachenko seconded.

Other

No other old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislation

Several important acts are currently in front of the state legislature. (Copy provided from CT Legislative Commission on Aging.) Direct Care Workforce Background checks are one important item among many more. Email State Representative John Hampton if you want to support any of these. House Bill 5050 is moving to a vote in the House to update a change in the handicapped symbol on Handicapped Parking Signs. If approved, the signs would be changed by attrition. Placards are not part of this act, so they would not change.

Spring Forum

Discussion was held with regard to having a spring forum. The purpose of the forum would be to meet with seniors to determine their needs and if services are being met in town. It was decided to advertise in the May/June Communicator that a forum will be held at 1:00 in the Old Court Room on May 10th after the Souper Tuesday event.

Assistive Listening

Mr. Orenstein has been working on a project to set up assistive hearing devices in the main meeting room at Town Hall. Two assistive listening receivers have been purchased for the main meeting room that is compatible with SCTV equipment.

OPA Advocacy Board

Mr. Jennings had suggested having a representative from state agency to come in to discuss issues of relevance to us.

Other

A resident of One West Street brought up an issue regarding the intersection of West Street and Hopmeadow. The walk light did not allow enough time for seniors to cross Hopmeadow and cars were turning right on the red light. The issue was brought up at a Town Public Safety subcommittee meeting. There is now a permanent sign that says no turn on red. Police put out portable sign that said a new sign is in effect to encourage people not to turn on red. The walk light is now longer in duration.

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The Seniors Job Bank has now been in town for three years and is doing very well.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular meeting of November 17, 2015

Mr. Koff made motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. Long. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Ms. Long moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Koff seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Youth Room, ENO Memorial Hall

Submitted by,

Jan Beatty

Jan Beatty
Clerk