

From: SimsburyCT Postings April 12, 2010 9:06:50 AM
Subject: Aging and Disability Commission Minutes 03/16/2010
To: SimsburyCT_Aging
Cc:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION

March 16, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Chairperson, Edward LaMontagne called the meeting to order in the Youth Room at Eno Hall, Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Grace Comeau, Kathy Fallon, Mike Jennings, Carrie Kramer, Mary Ellen Long, Mona Martinik, Ed LaMontagne, Charlotte Steptoe, Lynn Veith, Arlene Zappile, John Hampton (Board of Selectman liaison) Kathleen Marschall, (Senior Center Coordinator) Joe Loewy, Simsbury Housing Authority, ex Officio

Excused: Marvin Koff, Mark Orenstein, Mona Herman, Tom Doran, Ann Walters-Thompson

Absent: None

Public Audience: Vic Bible, Guest

Guest: John Mimnaugh, Simsbury Police Department:
Officer Mimnaugh responded to a letter from a commission member regarding handicapped parking permits and spaces in Simsbury. He asked people to contact the department through the main number at 658-3100 if there is an issue with individuals inappropriately using handicapped parking spaces. Residents can also utilize 911. The signage for handicapped spaces (signs and ground markings) is under the jurisdiction of zoning.

Minutes, Previous Meeting: The meeting minutes from January 19, 2010 were reviewed and accepted with spelling and grammatical corrections. Ms. Fallon made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. Ms. Long seconded. (Note: The February Aging and Disability Commission meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Souper Tuesday - Grace Comeau

The Souper Tuesday program on February 16 was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next program is scheduled for April 13 with the 4th graders from Tariffville School. Ms. Comeau suggested not having an event in February next year. There will be events in April and May.

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Citizen Service Award - Lynn Veith

Ms. Veith reported nomination letter was been sent to Fitzgerald's for the Community News section. Nominations were presented and an awardee was approved. Ms. Veith will contact the award winner and coordinate the presentation at the BOS meeting in April or May with a reception following at Town Hall.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility - Ann Walters-Thompson

Ms. Walters-Thompson was excused from the meeting. No report.

Disability Needs Assessment - Mike Jennings

Mr. Jennings reported that the some surveys have been returned. Surveys were included with the recent Senior Center Communicator. Additional surveys will be distributed at the Library, Senior Center and Town Hall. It will also be on the town's web site as well as the Board of Education list serve. Press releases will go out this week.

Housing - Joe Loewy

Mr. Loewy shared a copy of his testimony concerning criminal background checks for employees of homemaker-companion agencies and home health agencies. The bill is moving through the process.

Mr. LaMontagne reported on a house bill regarding percentages of handicapped units required with new housing developments.

Senior/Community Center Assessment - Mona Martinik

Ms. Martinik reported that the steam table is working out well. They are reviewing new chairs (100). Ms. Martinik reported that there is some funding available for re-design of the kitchen. This re-design is proceeding slowly.

Senior Center Report - Kathleen Marschall, Senior Center Coordinator
Ms. Marschall shared the newest newsletter. The Social Services Department received a \$5,000 donation from St. Catherine's of Siena Church to purchase gift cards for residents in need. The students from Westminster School presented an abbreviated version of Godspell in February. One of the results of the recent survey was a request for more evening programs. They had a very successful program on Dating after 50. Next Tuesday there will be a fencing demonstration. They have started a jewelry making program at Virginia Connelly. A new computer has been ordered for Virginia Connelly. Mr. Bible will be presenting a program on how to communicate with aging parents on April 13th.

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OLD BUSINESS

Business Recognition

The Commission will be presenting an award at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on May 26th to Autobahn, Inc. Mr. LaMontagne, Mr. Jennings, Ms. Kramer and Ms. Veith have been discussing the process and protocol for future awards. The award for this year was approved.

Elderly Work Tax Credit

There will be a meeting next week. A pilot project will be discussed with Diane Ullman, Superintendent of Schools.

FY 11 Budget

At a recent Board of Selectman meeting Mr. LaMontagne and Mr. Loewy spoke in favor of retaining a clerk position in the Social Services Department. The \$1,500.00 for the Aging and Disability Commission was approved.

Other Business

NEW BUSINESS

DMV Handicapped Parking Report

Mr. LaMontagne shared a publication from the DMV regarding ways to enforce handicapped parking. The Simsbury Police Department contributed to this publication.

Community Forum

A discussion was held regarding continuation of the Community Forum. Past forums have not been well attended. Several options were discussed to revitalize guests to Commission meetings

Volunteer Expo:

Selectman Hampton shared information on the Volunteer Expo on April 28th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Eno Memorial Hall. There will be a limit of 30 booths/participants.

Legislation

This month is Brain Injury Awareness month. New legislation will be presented tomorrow on Concussion Management for coaches.

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Announcements

- Mr. LaMontagne completed the FY 08-09 Aging and Disability Commission Annual Report for the Town of Simsbury. Copies were distributed to members. Commission members thanked Mr. LaMontagne for his work on this report.
- Mr. LaMontagne shared Effective Management improvements for Person's with Disability.
- The North Central Mental Health Board annual meeting was held this morning.
- The handicapped door at Eno has been replaced. The bathroom upstairs has been renovated with improvements in accessibility.
- Ms. Veith shared information on the launching of a new program at McLean on a Comprehensive COPD Program.

Correspondence

- Arlene Zappile, Tom Doran and Mark Ornstein were reappointed as commission members.
- Selectmen Heavner and Hampton will have open house hours on March 31st from 6-8 pm at Owen Murphy.
- Mr. Loewy shared that Ms. Veith has donated a quilt to Dr. Owen Murphy Housing. This will be a revolving quilt display with the quilt changing a few times a year.
- Mr. Loewy shared that a member of the Senior Housing community will be honored at a BOS meeting for her volunteer contributions to the MS Society.
- Ms. Steptoe has begun to plan the Picnic in the Park for this year. Date and time to be determined.

Other Business - None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mona Martinik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carrie Kramer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: April 20, 2010 - Eno Memorial Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Veith

Lynn R. Veith

Clerk

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