

**COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABLED  
REGULAR MEETING**

**DECEMBER 3, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Karen Brecher  
William DeMaio  
Tillie DeMaio  
Lesley Hodas  
Patricia Hanbury (arrived at 6:50 PM)  
Patricia Murray  
Jerilyn Nagel

**STAFF**

Dianne Stone  
Eleanor Eichner  
Gail Whitney

**ABSENT**

Lesley Hodas

**ALSO PRESENT**

Myra Cohen  
David Nagel  
Claire Knapple

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Karen Brecher called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Myra Cohen reported that the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission (TPZ) has discussed the in-law apartments saying that they would have to have their own kitchens and an entrance to the main house. Myra's concern is that the TPZ should think of this not as just adding a room to a home, but that the elderly individuals who would live in their family's home want and need their independence and that would mean a separate living area and not just in a room in the same home. There will be a public hearing on this issue on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Myra stated that Kiwanis is holding their annual holiday dinner at Newington High School on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

Myra then reported on the Charter Revision Commission. They have completed their duties and there will be public hearings on the Charter Revision on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at

the Senior and Disabled Center, and on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Town Hall. The revised Charter is now on the Town's website for review.

David Nagel also commented on the Kiwanis dinner and indicated that Bob Seiler was sending out emails. He asked Dianne about the carpeting and repairs and Dianne stated she would report on that during her Staff Report.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION: William DeMaio made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 5, 2008, Pat Murray seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 5, 2008 was unanimously approved with a 6-0 vote.**

#### V. STAFF REPORT

Dianne reported that the carpeting of the facility has been successful and is just about done. The multipurpose room, card and pool room, gift shop, and fitness room will be carpeted within the next couple of weeks. The new cafeteria chairs will be delivered the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dianne reported on the following programs: Dental cleaning appointments are all booked and appointments are being scheduled for the spring; the Board of Education and Services for the Blind is holding a six week support group on individual living skills; the second flu shot clinic was held on November 7<sup>th</sup>; a stress relief program is held the first Friday of each month; a one pot healthy meal had 15 participants; there was a meal for one program; on November 18<sup>th</sup> there was a mini-scrapbook program and there was enough room to invite other people so Dianne asked Town employees if they wanted to participate and some came over on their lunch hour and the program was very successful. Dianne stated that it was good to have other Town employees come to the Center and see what goes on during the day. On December 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a nutrition and osteoporosis program; December 15<sup>th</sup> a cold and flu information booth; December 16<sup>th</sup> a holiday cookie program; and December 19<sup>th</sup> kids from NECCI will come in to sing holiday songs.

Dianne and a volunteer attended a four day training session on a new health program on self-management of chronic diseases. Parks and Recreation is getting restaffed and they will begin working with the Center again on programs. Staff is working on the budget with a 0% increase, 5% decrease, and 10% decrease; one solution is to charge fees for specific programs that require purchasing supplies; and another solution is to discontinue the Dial-A-Ride Sunday service.

#### VI. REPORT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**MOTION: William DeMaio made a motion to accept the monthly Report of Human Services for the month of November, Eunice Scharr seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was passed with a 6-0 vote.**

VII. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY

Diana Robino was not in attendance.

VIII. SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dianne reported that Pat Hanbury was in attendance at this morning's meeting, however she is not here tonight. Dianne indicated that she basically gave the Senior Advisory Committee her staff report that she reported on early in tonight's meeting.

IX. CLUB UPDATES

There was no one in attendance.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Housing

Dianne has not heard anything from David Brown of New Samaritan as to the status of the senior housing.

B. Strategic Plan

Dianne distributed to the Commission a copy of the report/action plan for their review.

C. Senior Housing – Accessory Apartments

Myra spoke about this under Public Participation. Additionally, Dianne distributed a copy of an email from Ed Meehan that listed the proposed zoning regulations for the accessory apartments. Dianne has reviewed them and felt that it is a solid document. She agreed with Myra that the TPZ should be made aware of the need for an individual's or elderly couple's independence in a home.

D. Self-Assessment

Dianne reported that this is near completion.

E. Dial-A-Ride

Dianne reported on out-of-town medical transportation. Newington receives a State grant that expands the demand for these services. Wethersfield uses Logisticare for their out-of-town medical transportation so Newington and Rocky Hill piggyback on this service with the State money going to Wethersfield for this service. Newington is allowed 152 trips per month through Logisticare. As of late-November only eight trips remained and eight days needed to be cut out. There is a meeting on Thursday to discuss how to control the amount of trips. Bill stated that the Town Manager and Town Council should be made aware of this program.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Karen indicated that elections will be held at the January meeting for Commission officers. The Charter Revision states that a chairperson shall be able to serve for eight consecutive years.

XII. AGENDA FOR JANUARY MEETING

A. Housing Authority

Steve Karp will be in attendance at the January meeting to discuss Newington's Housing Authority Commission.

Add Elections under New Business. Move Housing Authority to New Business.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Newington Night of Lights is scheduled for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM on Main Street in Newington.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION: Eunice Scharr made a motion to adjourn, Jerilyn Nagel seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion was unanimously passed with a 7-0 vote at 7:08 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Gail Whitney, Commission Clerk