

ELDERLY COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING: April 25, 2011 at 5:30pm
East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2011:

I. Co-Chairman Drouin called the meeting to order at 5:41pm.

II. Attendance:

Present Members: Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent), Catherine Drouin (Co-Chairman), Trevor Bray, Deb Donovan

Absent Members: Claire Badstubner (Chairman), Madeleine Thompson

III. Previous Minutes:

Regular Meeting 3/28/11: **MOTION** made by Mr. Bray to accept the minutes as presented. **SECONDED** by Ms. Donovan. **ALL THOSE VOTING: IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. Added Agenda Items:

Ms. Drouin requested a discussion regarding the recording secretary's meeting fee. Brief discussion followed with a request to increase the recording secretary's fee to \$85.00 per meeting, from \$75.00. Members briefly discussed the remaining budget balance for this fiscal year and the potential of seven meetings in the next fiscal year at the requested budget. Mr. Bray expressed concern if there was a need for additional meetings and that the commission may not want to be locked in to only seven meetings per year. The commission meets, on average, between 6-8 times a year. It was mentioned that if seven meetings are scheduled, special meetings can be added as needed and the commission could address the issue of recording the minutes at those times and if those situations come up.

It was agreed that once the budget is approved and presented, the commission will continue the discussion at that time regarding a meeting schedule and the recording secretary's fee.

MOTION made by Ms. Donovan to amend the recording secretary's fee; to be paid \$85.00 each meeting for the remainder of this fiscal year. **SECONDED** by Mr. Bray. **ALL THOSE VOTING: IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

V. Continuing Business:

1. Meeting Schedule: discussed under agenda IV.

2. CTriad: Commission members began a discussion and feedback regarding the last meeting about CTriad. Mr. Bray mentioned that he would like to see a list of all activities currently offered by the town – review the list and see what may be missing. Ms. Burns added that she will have Marissa put a full calendar together.

Ms. Donovan added that the senior center does cover key areas like: Transportation, Meals/Nutrition, Wellness Classes/Programs and Socialization. There is no ongoing safety program except for the cell phone program. East Windsor has done the yellow dot program and the file of life program. Mr. Bray expressed the need for more security/safety programs as it relates to roads and crossings for the seniors – especially signs/markings for crossing. He asked if things like that are being done. Ms. Burns responded that yes, it is being done, however, the town has a lot of state roads so depending on the road, would depend who would be involved to add a cross walk in. Mr. Bray is also concerned about the condition of some of the curbs and walkways (missing steps, drains in parking lots, etc.) and that seniors are at risk for injuries. Ms. Donovan asked where the heavy foot traffic in town is as she feels it is mainly plaza traffic (many still drive or are driven).

Mr. Bray also commented that the relationship between the police department and the elderly is weak and that the elderly should know what services the police department offer. Ms. Donovan commented that the PD did a great job at the cell phone program. Mr. Bray suggested that a program be set up to invite people into the police department to see what the department does – their real functions. Ms. Burns stated that she will outreach to the PD and possible tour/visit to the PD – she will contact the department and inquire. Ms. Drouin added that the PD can talk about crime and safety within the town.

Brief discussion among all members of the CTriad's purpose and what it offers.

Members continued with discussion of cell phone program. Mr. Bray commented that he hasn't heard of anyone who has needed to use their cell phone; he believes those people do not have their cell phones with them. He suggested a follow-up program to see if it is working. Ms. Donovan commented that it is good that no one has needed to use their cell phones for an emergency. Ms. Drouin added that the cell phones give a feeling of security that they have it if they needed to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Mr. Bray concluded by stating that he is not convinced it is being used – he has heard negative feedback. Ms. Donovan disagreed and stated that she has heard positive feedback. It was decided that Ms. Donovan will give Ms. Burns a list of all the seniors who have cell phones so that Ms. Burns can follow-up with those individuals.

VI. New Business

1. "Are You Okay?" – Ms. Burns distributed two handouts about this program. Ms. Drouin commented that she has a contact person to provide more information as they have initiated this program in Manchester (where she works). She will ask person (PD representative) to attend our May or June meeting to speak about the program.

Ms. Donovan asked Ms. Burns if the commission can get a census on seniors/disabled/shut-ins. Ms. Burns stated that that information would need to be compiled and that there would be many out there that we may never even know about. Ms. Burns estimated that approximately 700-800 people meet the criteria of being (over age 18) disabled and/or elderly (over age 60). Ms. Burns added that she is in the

process of developing a form to establish a database at the senior center in order to gather a more accurate record. They are compiling information and cross-referencing it with other lists.

VII. General Discussion

Ms. Burns informed the commission that a Friday meeting has been scheduled with key people regarding the senior center and its issues that need to be addressed (i.e. building issues, compliance issues). Some of the attendees will be Janet, N. Central Health Dept., Fire Marshal, BBFD. Ms. Burns stated that issues need to be addressed one step at a time as there are cost factors and timelines. For example, by 2012 there will be a grease trap issue that may affect the senior center refrigeration, garbage disposal, etc.

Ms. Drouin asked how many people use the senior center. Ms. Burns responded that the number is in the hundreds and some only use it for transportation purposes. Ms. Burns added that the center is moving forward and she does look to other centers to see what activities they provide, what works and what doesn't. Ms. Burns handed out the Senior Center's May Calendar – explaining that they have added "brown bag" events (as previously suggested). Ms. Burns also works with Melissa Maltese (Park & Recreation Dept.) to set up programs. Ms. Donovan asked what the ratio of Education/Medical/Social programs is that are scheduled. Ms. Burns stated that she is trying to find a good balance.

Ms. Burns updated the commission with regards to the new drivers for the senior center. She stated that the drivers were hired to be flexible – i.e. to be able to drive for evening events such as the Windsor Locks summer concert trips.

Mr. Bray suggested scheduling a Windsor Locks historical trip to talk, drive and walk to learn the history of the town – would be a good summer program. Ms. Burns added that she wants suggestions and is looking to mark the calendar a year in advance for programs/trips. Mr. Bray concluded by stating that Ms. Burns is doing a wonderful job at the senior center!

Ms. Drouin will provide information on "Brain Programs" via email to Ms. Burns.

VIII. Public Input – comments only (5 minute maximum)

None

IX. Adjournment

MOTION made by Ms. Donovan to adjourn meeting at 6:24pm. **SECONDED BY** Mr. Bray.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Pellegrini
Recording Secretary – East Windsor Elderly Commission