

# **ELDERLY COMMISSION MEETING**

## **REGULAR MEETING: February 25, 2008 at 5:00pm**

### **East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room**

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*Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2008:*

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:17pm, by Claire Badstubner, Chairman.
- II. Attendance:  
Present Members: Claire Badstubner (Chairman), Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent), Catherine Drouin, Madeleine Thompson, Deb Donovan, Trevor Bray  
Guest: Dale Nelson, Board of Selectman
- III. Previous Minutes:  
Regular Meeting 1/28/08:  
**MOTION** made by Ms. Donovan to accept minutes of the above regular meeting, as presented. **SECONDED** by Ms. Thompson. **ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**
- IV. ITN Updates:  
Feedback from the 1/28/08 ITN informational “tea” held at the library was very good. There seemed to be some interest according to Margaret Hale, Executive Director at ITN.

Ms. Hale will be rescheduling the ITN Community Tea at Park Hill. She will inform the commission of that new date. Ms. Hale is planning on doing a tea for the Ecumenical Council in April. According to Ms. Hale, ITN has a target start date of April 15, 2008.

The commission updated Ms. Nelson regarding ITN and the Elderly Commission’s involvement with its start-up.

- V. New Business:  
***Cell Phone discussion –***  
Ms. Donovan had contacted an acquaintance who is willing to get contacts back to her regarding servicing/checking of cell phones that are donated and ensuring that they are in working condition for 9-1-1 use. Ms. Donovan asked how many phones with chargers should initially be collected and prepared. Ms. Burns suggested twenty-five. Ms. Donovan to update commission further at next meeting.

***New Senior Center/ Current Senior Center-***

Ms. Burns briefly discussed the Facilities Study that was done in the past. She will bring copies to the next meeting for each member.

Discussion began with a review of what the “charge” of the Elderly Commission is (from the Board of Selectmen) in regards to a new senior center. There was concern that the commission may be getting ahead of its duties. Ms. Badstubner read the purpose of the commission under the ordinance to the members. Ms. Burns summarized by stating that the commission is to work with and help to develop programs for the current senior center. All members were given a copy of the charge. Ms. Burns reiterated that she presented the idea of a new senior center to the commission as a potential project for the members to discuss

and work on, however, members can decide to remove this from their realm if they so choose.

Members agreed that they need to find out what seniors want. A brief discussion followed regarding what activities currently take place at the senior center. Ms. Donovan and Ms. Drouin prepared and presented a preliminary survey that could be used to help members determine what seniors/active adults are interested in doing at a senior center. Members questioned why the senior center has not branched out to try other programs. Members also expressed concern over lack of advertising for current programs.

Regarding the survey, members discussed how the volunteer base will work to administer the survey. Members agreed that mailing surveys has not worked in the past and to do the "next" survey via phone or face-to-face. With the volunteers approaching people for the survey, there is more of a chance of getting information from various age groups (50+), as one of the goals would be to integrate all active adult age groups at a center. It was suggested to perhaps have some volunteers outside Walmart, Geissler's, Big Y and to have some volunteers simply go door-to-door.

Regarding the contents of the survey, members were very pleased with the layout and contents. Mr. Bray, however, did suggest that there be more "masculine" activities included within the survey (i.e. fishing, hunting, archery, auto/engine repair, antiquing). Mr. Bray also suggested eliminating question #7 from the survey ("senior" versus "active adult")

Commission discussed activities that could currently be held at the center that would not require any funding (i.e. cards, cribbage group, book of the month discussions, etc.). Other activities/programs that would need funding would need to be considered for the 2009-2010 budget year. The Elderly Commission may consider supporting some programs at the senior center with requested monies in their budget.

**MOTION** made by Ms. Donovan to continue to develop a venue/overview of the survey by the Elderly Commission. **SECONDED BY** Ms. Drouin.

**In Favor:** Badstubner, Drouin, Donovan, Thompson

**Opposed:** Bray

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. Bray suggested advertising a few activities and see what sort of response the senior center gets. These activities would be "free programs", such as a cribbage game/club.

Mr. Bray will ask some of his acquaintances to see if there is an interest in a cribbage club. He will let Ms. Burns know if there is an interest and then she will inform Ms. Clynch at the Senior Center so that she may advertise this. Mr. Bray will work with Ms. Clynch in regards to day/time of club. Ms. Burns will give Ms. Clynch information on venues.

Members also briefly discussed inviting Ms. Laura Clynch (Senior Center-director) and Ms. Melissa Green (Park and Rec-director) to a future meeting(s) for discussion on senior activities currently in place or for the future.

VI. Adjournment:

**MOTION** made by Ms. Drouin to adjourn meeting at 6:47pm. **SECONDED BY** Ms. Donovan.

Respectfully Submitted: Christine Pellegrini