

**ELDERLY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**REGULAR MEETING: October 26, 2009 at 5:00pm**  
**East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room**

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*Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2009:*

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:15pm, by Claire Badstubner, Chairman.
  
- II. Attendance:  
Present Members: Claire Badstubner (Chairman), Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent), Deb Donovan, Trevor Bray  
Absent Member: Catherine Drouin (Co-Chairman), Madeleine Thompson  
Guests: Selectwoman Dale Nelson, Laura Clynch – Director, Senior Center
  
- III. Previous Minutes:  
Regular Meeting 6/22/09: (no meetings in July, August or September)  
**MOTION** made by Ms. Donovan to accept the minutes, as presented. **SECONDED** by Mr. Bray. **ALL VOTING IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**
  
- IV. Cell Phones for Seniors:  
The next scheduled cell phone presentation is scheduled for 12/3/09 at the Senior Center. Ms. Clynch states that it is listed on the activity calendar.  
Ms. Donovan reports that Pat Tracy has stopped by Verizon (Simply Wireless) to pick up phones and to distribute them to more seniors. Ms. Donovan has also stopped by Simply Wireless to drop phones off and discuss upcoming changes with Ralph; changes due to the universal “1” that will be used for voicemail access – 9-1-1 “speed” dialing will be changed from this point on.  
Ms. Burns asked if there are any bigger button phones that have come in, as she has had requests for some. Ms. Donovan will check with Ralph regarding such phones.  
As per Ms. Donovan, Ralph (Simply Wireless) states that some seniors have stopped in with questions regarding the phone. Ms. Donovan added that some seniors are still forgetting to carry their phones with them or to charge them.  
Ms. Badstubner handed Ms. Donovan more phones to pass to Simply Wireless.
  
- V. Miscellaneous/New Business:
  - A. Ms. Burns informed the commission that there is a study group that has been established for the purpose of developing a tax amnesty program for the elderly. Ms. Burns informed members that they may be contacted to join the study group until a committee is formed. Ms. Badstubner stated that she is aware of this study group.  
Selectwoman Nelson added that this study group will mirror a federal program that is already in place, which will give the town more information to develop their own program. Ms. Badstubner, Ms. Burns and Selectwoman Nelson briefly reviewed the Elderly Commission’s 2005 work on the issue and the comparisons to 15 other towns (based on population and other criteria) to update members of the commission of their previous efforts. Ms. Badstubner commented that the concern that stood out (in 2005) was that “someone is going to have to pay for it”. Selectwoman Nelson reminded the

commission that there will be a lot of qualifications and paperwork needed to be able to receive this sort of tax amnesty. How many people are truly going to fit into this pool?

Mr. Bray asked about a work study program for the seniors. Selectwoman Nelson responded that a work study program has been discussed in the past, however it would be very difficult to manage, administrative wise. Brief discussion followed of what is involved with management of such a program. Selectwoman Nelson commented that a work study program could be used in conjunction with other programs.

B. Active Adult Surveys: Ms. Donovan reported that she and Ms. Drouin have had discussions regarding the status of the surveys. There has been no further progress at this point and UCONN has not been contacted.

Over 500 surveys have been done; however, Ms. Donovan feels this is not a good number to represent an accurate percentage of the active adult population. Commission members discussed submitting early results to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Donovan stated that the results, so far, indicate that the senior center is not meeting our needs. Ms. Donovan will correlate the early results for presentation to the BOS for either the 11/17 BOS meeting or a December BOS meeting.

C. Ms. Clynch asked the commission about money and requests with regards to this year's CIP. Ms. Clynch stated that money has been put back into CIP, in the past, with regards to new vehicles and it doesn't appear to be the case this year. Brief discussion followed with regards to CIP requests. Ms. Burns will submit CIP request for a new senior center and for new vehicles.

D. "Community Conversations" started back up last Tuesday and will continue, as Ms. Burns reports. Tim Howes, Superintendent of schools attended the last meeting to discuss "Friday Night Mania" at the high school. The students have expressed an interest in doing some Friday nights as inter-generational themes. Some themes/events discussed were: bingo, movie/popcorn night, bands, senior prom. Mr. Bray suggested a car show with the students at the high school. A pet show was also suggested. Ms. Burns will bring the feedback to the next meeting.

E. Ms. Clynch requested clarification from the 6/22/09 minutes (page 1, section V-A, paragraph 2) which questions if the low attendance at the senior center is a result of the center or the programs. Ms. Clynch is concerned that the minutes may be taken out of context and be interpreted negatively/inaccurately by a reader. Ms. Clynch commented that the senior center is very active and the programs are appropriate to the seniors. Discussion followed with Ms. Donovan and Ms. Badstubner asking why there is a program of interest to seniors, it's put on the activity schedule, but people end up not showing for the programs they expressed interest in or they show up for the first one only (i.e. cards). Ms. Clynch stated that the programs are supply and demand and they also go along with the current trends (i.e. yoga, zumba, wii).

Ms. Clynch informed the commission that the center has recorded 10,000 meals on-site and an additional 10,000 meals for home-bound individuals.

Ms. Donovan asked what programs are by participants, not put on by VNA or CRT? Ms. Clynch responded that chair yoga and wii are a couple of the active programs not put on by VNA or CRT.

Ms. Clynch added that the entire organization needs to be looked at, as a whole – administration, programs, publicity. Ms. Clynch feels the whole organization is well-

utilized. Some people have left the center, however, there are new faces as well. New faces are coming from Park Hill also.

Ms. Donovan asked if there is a (computer) program that tracks attendance to the programs at the center. Ms. Clynch states that there is not a computer program; however there is a sign-in sheet at each activity for evidence of attendance and level of interest in a program. This information is also on hand for BOS/BOF when needed for support.

Ms. Clynch reiterated that many good things are happening and publicity has increased given that administrative hours at the senior center have been reduced. Ms. Clynch added that she does hear appreciation of the variety of programs offered and recognition that the programs are still offered even with a limited staff. Ms. Clynch added that no additional staff has been added in over a decade. The senior center has been there for over 30 years and with more seniors, come more demands – Ms. Clynch added that this is still the case, even with reduced hours and staff.

F. Selectwoman Nelson recommended updating the agenda format to include “Public Input – comments only (5 minute limit)”. Commission members agreed this should be added.

VI. Adjournment:

**MOTION** made by Ms. Donovan to adjourn meeting at 6:05pm. **SECONDED BY** Mr. Bray.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Pellegrini