

ELDERLY COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING: May 24, 2010 at 5:00pm
Warehouse Point Library Community Room

Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2010:

- I. Chairman Badstubner called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

- II. Attendance:
Present Members: Claire Badstubner (Chairman), Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent), Deb Donovan, Catherine Drouin (Co-Chairman), Trevor Bray
Absent Member: Madeleine Thompson

- III. Previous Minutes:
Regular Meeting 4/26/10: **MOTION** made by Ms. Drouin to accept the minutes, as presented. **SECONDED** by Mr. Bray. **ALL THOSE VOTING: IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

- IV. Added Agenda Items:
None

- V. Continuing Business:
B. Update on Tax Amnesty/Deferment Program - Discussion began with the issue of the ordinance going to town meeting. Mr. Hayes (from previous meeting) was to forward the ordinance to the Elderly Commission members. Mr. Hayes was not present for tonight's meeting to answer questions. Ms. Burns stated that she has not heard any updates, but that possibly the draft is at the town attorney. Ms. Burns also commented that with the budget and referendum, it is not a top priority for the Board of Selectman at the present moment, but it will eventually go to town meeting.

Mr. Bray was hoping to get more information regarding senior work programs. Ms. Burns mentioned that she knows Rocky Hill has done a senior work program in the past and she will look into it and get more information. Discussion followed regarding the purpose of the program, including the fact that the BOF will set up the final amount. Mr. Bray added that he is familiar with a senior work program in Hudson, MA that had a \$500. (Per qualified resident) deferment program that worked well. Ms. Badstubner reminded members that the amount is off of the assessment, not a given dollar amount to the resident. Ms. Burns also stated that potentially 120 residents could be eligible in town (to qualify) however, they may choose not to participate and put a lien on their home. Discussion concluded.

A. Amending Elderly Commission Ordinance (1990) - Discussion began regarding what the ordinance says the commission can actually do. Ms. Burns reviewed and translated ordinance and the Elderly Commission's role (i.e. elderly programs such as the cell phone program).

C. Report on Grants - Ms. Drouin stated that she was not able to find any grants in her search, but did find work program information. DPH has a new initiative for work programs. The US Department of Labor has some programs as well, but none in our area. Ms. Drouin stated that she has seen that the jobs are not high substance jobs. In conclusion, she reports that there appears to be no specific work program for seniors that she could find, probably due to the fact that there is a shortage of volunteers all over the country. Brief mention of grants that are sometimes offered through Wal-Mart.

D. List of potential Senior Jobs - Brief discussion of potential senior jobs in town, including with the Park & Rec department. Ms. Burns commented that older residents have previously worked in the entrance shed.

E. Future Meeting Dates - The commission, at this point, has been budgeted for six meeting for the next fiscal year. Ms. Burns suggested establishing a few meeting dates and waiting to see what the results are from the budget vote. The consensus was to cancel the scheduled summer meetings (June, July and August) and the commission will meet next in September, as scheduled.

VI. New Business
None

VII. General Discussion

Ms. Burns did comment that all towns are struggling at some level and are trying to keep what they have, not expand to new programs.

Commission members spent time discussing the town budget and tomorrow's referendum.

VIII. Public Input – comments only (5 minute maximum)
None

IX. Adjournment

MOTION made by Ms. Donovan to adjourn meeting at 5:53pm. **SECONDED BY** Ms. Drouin.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Pellegrini
Recording Secretary – Elderly Commission