

ELDERLY COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING: September 24, 2012 at 5:30pm
East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2012:

- I. Chairman Badstubner called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

- II. Attendance:
Present Members: Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent), Claire Badstubner (Chairman), Catherine Drouin (Co-Chairman), Deb Donovan
Absent Members: Madeleine Thompson
Guest: First Selectwoman Denise Menard

- III. Previous Minutes:
Regular Meeting 11/30/11: **MOTION** made by Ms. Donovan to accept the minutes as presented. **SECONDED** by Ms. Drouin. **ALL THOSE VOTING: VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

- IV. Added Agenda Items:
None

- V. Continuing Business:
Yellow Dot Program: Ms. Donovan expressed concern that there has not been any follow-up on the Yellow Dot Program from the November meeting. Ms. Burns responded that there hasn't been any response or interest expressed to go train for the program (in Bridgeport). Ms. Donovan expressed interest, as well as Ms. Drouin. Ms. Burns will have the contact information forwarded to them in order to schedule training. Goal is to have the program up and running by Community Day (May, 2013)

- VI. New Business:
First Selectwoman Denise Menard presented a charge to the Elderly Commission: to help determine the future of the Senior Center by developing a sub-committee to look into the many aspects of developing a new center, financial aspects, interests, etc and pulling all the information together.
Ms. Menard added that she has spoken to a grant writer and it does not appear that the town can get money from the Small City Block monies, as it can not be used for a senior center. She added that she spoke to David Kiner and Gary LeBeau who will also look into funding options.
Ms. Menard recommended developing a subcommittee of the Elderly Commission to focus on the Senior Center's future. Her suggestions for the subcommittee members are: 2 Elderly Commission members, 3 Senior Center patrons, 2 Building Committee members, a member from the Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Burns and herself.
Some items the subcommittee would address are: type of facility, needs of a center, location/feasibility of site, parameters/types of rooms and sources of funding.

With regards to location, the commission discussed the possibility of Scout Hall as a feasible location. The building could potentially be added on to with the Senior Center at one end and a common area connecting the two main areas. The Small City Block funding is restrictive so this would need to be looked into further. The area could also be used for emergency management needs. Scout Hall could potentially be a multi-faceted facility servicing the youth, seniors and in emergencies.

Ms. Donovan took a few minutes to update Selectwoman Menard with regards to the previous survey results that were performed earlier (regarding what seniors want to see in a senior center). She stated that results showed that seniors don't see themselves as seniors; they feel there is a lack of stimulating programs and availability.

Discussion continued regarding Scout Hall – how the property evolved, the use of it, no restrictions. Group also discussed the town property on Reservoir Rd which also has no restrictions on the land – but would be starting from scratch. Additionally, it was questioned whether the current Walmart location could be retrofitted, as it is a one floor building.

Group discussed touring local senior centers to compare layouts, use of rooms, activities. It was stated that Ellington has produced a brochure of the layout of their new building as a tool for seeking donations.

Ms. Burns took a moment to express that there is a good solid team at the Senior Center right now working hard to address programs and find new ones. There is a focus group that now has more seniors attending it. Ms. Burns handed out the October Senior Center calendar and reviewed it with members. Discussion about the Senior Center's website and its improvements now and on-going, as well as the newsletter. Group continued to discuss programs/activities, including a trial (3 months) of transporting to Adult Day Care in Enfield one day a week.

Ms. Menard took a moment to suggest some sources of funding that the subcommittee should follow-up with. She stated the following as strong sources: The Hartford Foundation, DECD, Small Cities Block Grant, STEAP Grant, and locally, InfoShred.

In conclusion, Ms. Donovan suggested that each Elderly Commission member look at two different town's websites to gather ideas/info on how to improve our website.

VII. General Discussion

Chairman Badstubner informed the commission that the budget for this fiscal year (2012/2013) is \$600.00 Recording Secretary budget and \$50.00 Postage budget. The budget allows for seven meetings during the year.

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

None

IX. Adjournment

MOTION made by Ms. Drouin to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm. **SECONDED BY** Ms. Donovan. **ALL THOSE VOTING: VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

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