

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
ELDERLY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 28, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

I. Call to order:

Vice Chairman Drouin called the Meeting to Order at 5:28 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

II. Attendance

Present: Vice Chairman Catherine Drouin, Elizabeth Burns, Bob Cormier, and Nancy Viets. Also present as a liaison was Kristen Formanek, LCSW.

Absent: Claire Badstubner, Debbie Donovan

A quorum was established as four members were present.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2015

MOTION: To APPROVE the minutes of the East Windsor Elderly Commission dated October 26, 2016 with corrections.

Correction to minutes:

- Bob Cormier needs to be added under “attendance” as present.
- Kristen's credentials are incorrect. They should read “LMSW”.

Burns moved/Druin seconded/Burns DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Burns/Cormier/Drouin/Viets
Opposed: No one
Abstained: No one

IV. Open Discussion

The Commissioners reviewed the following projects/programs for consideration:

Senior Survey

Ms. Drouin provided the members with a copy of a Senior Center survey done by the Town of Simsbury. She wondered how many people in East Windsor actually know where the Senior Center is. She had an article that said the Town of Simsbury hired a firm to administer a survey and they paid a consultant to evaluate what was being offered. A brief discussion was held.

Kristen asked if the commission would like to wait until the Senior Center has a new location before conducting the survey. In regards to an update to the potential moving of the Senior Center, it has gone through the next phase of the CIP process to do the formal engineering study. Kristen added that she was still working with Joe and Len from Department of Public Works to hire an architect to come in and look at the building. Ms. Burns said that last week there was a meeting with Planning and Zoning regarding the Warehouse Point village draft. There were draft plans for that had the Town Hall Annex being a new building totally and it did not encompass the Senior Center.

Senior Center update

Kristen mentioned that one of her goals is to make sure that once a week she does a program with the seniors. She has also made sure that every staff member gets out and does a program with them. Kristen updated the commission on the following:

- The staff meets with the seniors in Focus Group and in Tea Time to find out what they like and what they want and the programs they enjoy the most.
 - Their calendar has grown exponentially. Kristen handed out a color copy of their April 2016 calendar. The complaint is now people have to choose between two activities. Kristen said she takes it as a positive compliment.
 - They have added a coloring program once a month by Kristen. She increased the time from one hour to an hour and a half because the seniors felt that one hour was not enough time.
 - Sit and Stitch is a knitting and crocheting program lead by Mary Ellen; it has 10-15 people participating every time.
 - A new program is starting called Trivia with Teresa.
 - They have also added Crafts with Melissa.
- Regular events also continue.

Ordinance #15-04 Concerning Local Property Tax Relief (Repeals Ord. 10-06) – Senior Property Tax Relief

Kristen provided the commission members with a little background on this ordinance. She said it was worked on by Selectman Bowsza, Kim Lord, Patti Kratochvil, Carol Madore, and herself to finalize language and implement it. She added that there are eligibility requirements that would have to be met before being approved. All applicants eligible would be screened by a small group of employees

to determine who would be given the relief. She explained that this is a lien related program; any relief given to the homeowner would be given as a lien. At the time of their death, the debt would be repaid. Kristen suggested that any senior interested in the program should come see one of them to see if they are eligible.

Community Day

If the group is serious about conducting a Senior Center survey, Kristen suggested getting surveys from a few more towns and we can have a survey ready for Community Day. For their next meeting, they would like to look at the surveys collected by CCM.

Community Day is in September 2016 and Kristen mentioned that Social Services has a booth and maybe the Elderly Commission can share their booth, That way they would both benefit because they would have each other's traffic. Another suggestion was to have the survey available at the next Health Fair.

Miscellaneous

Kristen mentioned that this coming Wednesday at the Broad Brook Brewery a fundraiser for Five Corner Cupboard was being held. There is a \$25.00 entrance fee, appetizers, flights, etc.

She also mentioned that the Hunger Action Team is participating in the Food Share Walk Against Hunger on the first Sunday in May and that they are collecting donations and are asking for businesses to make a donation to them in the amount of \$50.00 to sponsor their t-shirts. Any business that sponsors will have their name and logo on the back of their t-shirts that will be seen by hundreds on the day of the walk.

Kristen mentioned that last Thursday, Teresa and she finished the 5310 Grant for replacement of Dial-A-Ride vehicles. They received approval for the 20% to pay for their busses. They will be getting one 12 and one 20 passenger bus.

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Burns moved/Cormier seconded/Burns DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Burns/Cormier/Drouin/Viets

Opposed: No one

Abstained: No one

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Schroll
Recording Secretary