

Commission on Aging  
Minutes of the Meeting  
January 24, 2011

Present: Chair Christine Robertson; Kathy Brennan; Marion Freer; Alice Kenny Lucas; Mary Morrisroe; Mary Ann O'Grady; Sheila Silverman; Eileen Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair Christine Robertson. Chris distributed tickets and sign-up sheets for SPIF's "St. Paddy's Party" to members. Chris outlined how tickets were to be sold (\$5 to Ridgefield seniors; \$25 to non Ridgefield residents) Discussion followed as to definition of "senior" age. Sheila Silverman moved that anyone 60 or older be considered a senior. Alice Kenny Lucas seconded the motion. All agreed.

#### Minutes

Minutes of the December 20, 2010, meeting were sent to members for their review prior to this meeting. The Chair asked if there were any corrections or comments. None received. Sheila Silverman moved that the Minutes be approved as written. Marion Freer seconded the motion. All agreed.

#### Mall Bus

Questions were raised about the success of this effort. Would the best use of the Commission's money be contributing to the fuel fund because the cost of oil is increasing? Chair Robertson reported that the cost of the bus, starting October 6<sup>th</sup>, was only \$71.49 per trip. Discussion was halted by the arrival of our speaker.

#### Ridgefield Office of Emergency Management.

Dick Aarons, Deputy Emergency Manager of the Ridgefield Office of Emergency Management and a member of the Ridgefield Voluntary Fire Department explained that he works for the Fire Chief who is also the Town Emergency Manager. Emergency Management coordinates all Town Agencies. As part of his job, Mr. Aarons reaches out to organizations and groups like this Commission to provide them with information on Ridgefield's emergency plans. Aarons also trains volunteers for work in case of emergencies.

Aarons advised that communications are vital during any emergency. Ridgefield works with the Reverse Notification System (911). This system includes all residents listed in the phone book and those unlisted who have chosen to participate (land lines). Reverse Notification allows the First Selectman and other emergency officials to communicate with residents.

Aarons also discussed the Connecticut Emergency Notification System powered by "Everbridge." This is a State Emergency Notification System to alert residents about life threatening emergency conditions. It can be used in specific areas—as it was here in

Ridgefield recently when two young girls were missing. This system can be used on regular land line telephones, cell phones, Email, text, or certain hearing impaired receiving devices. Aarons urged all present to go to the Town web site to sign up. Mr. Aarons plans to attend the "St. Paddy's" event, setting up with the Fire Department with sign-up forms, etc. Aarons also noted that the Fire Department maintains a list of "special needs individuals" (those on oxygen, etc.)

Mr. Aarons outlined procedures in opening up emergency centers for shelter, heat, water, during power outages, storms, etc. He reminded members that, although emergency plans are prepared in advance, it takes several hours or more to implement them. He reviewed previous experiences.

The Chair thanked Mr. Aarons for his interesting and helpful talk.

#### Miscellaneous

\*Seniors who do not drive have difficulty obtaining a "Gold Card" . Post Meeting Note: Chris Robertson will work with Carole Konner on this.

\*A new Director has not been appointed to replace Diana. Sue Nolan and Ellen Scott are covering Congregate Housing, Ballard Green and the Moderate Housing.

\*Emma Lou Benedict would like this Commission to sponsor a CHIRP concert with the Commission on the Disabled next summer.

\*Chris Robertson provided more information on the SPIF "St. Paddy's Party:

\*Each table will hold a raffle. There will be no charge to participate.

\*Each participating table will provide a \$50 prize. (After discussion, this Commission agreed on a \$50 Stop and Shop gift certificate.)

\*Event will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

\*Frank Lancaster will be Master of Ceremonies

It was agreed to table further discussion of the Mall Bus until our next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrisroe, Secretary

The next meeting of this Commission will take place on Monday, February 28, 2011, in the Small Lower Level Conference Room at 2:30 p.m.

Note: Anyone requiring special accommodation due to disability is asked to contact Chair Christine Robertson at (203) 438-6165