

DANBURY COMMISSION ON AGING
Minutes of February 10, 2009
Elmwood Hall, Danbury Senior Center

Present: Helen Miller, James Derwin, Arlene Strucky, Jay Geib, Ronald Haberman,
Absent: Charlotte Barrows, Mary Mazzucco, Sharon Kelly
Staff: Susan Tomanio, Marnie Emerito, Fran Hendrickson: Intern: Katrina Barlowski
Guest: Carole Cole

Helen Miller called the meeting to order at 2:25pm.

Financial Report and Director of Elderly Services Report: (Copies attached.): The Director of Elderly Services presented the financial report and her report. Susan reported that a hiring freeze now exists and replacement of Richard Servello will not take place. Further cuts to the budget have taken place and additional ones are possible. Susan has been asked to identify 5% additional possible cuts. A person to assist Marnie will not be hired this year. Susan stated that even with all the cuts, she and her staff are committed to their core mission (see Mission Statement on back page of newsletter). Based on the budget cuts and fewer than normal personnel, the Health & Fitness Fair will be cancelled and the Volunteer's Luncheon is questionable. Ron proposed charging a bit more for some functions to cover all expenses and this will be considered. Recruitment of volunteers to help out around the Senior Center to assist the staff and to possibly allow some of the proposed elimination of activities was proposed. This will be investigated.

Municipal Agent report: (Copy attached.): AARP tax assistance has begun and will continue on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings through about mid-April at Elmwood Hall.. This will be the first year that they will not have a third person to assist with the Renters Rebate in the office. Person's needing information on the furnace rebate should call the assessor's office.

Senior Center Coordinator report: (Copy attached.): Katrina Barlowski is a student intern from the Dept. of Social Work at Western CT State Univ. for 104 hours of training to learn how a social service agency works. A program "Addressing Climate Change in CT" scheduled for Jan. 28 was cancelled due to an ice storm. Although short-handed, many activities have still been scheduled during the coming months – see report and Newsletter. Five more quilts have been made and given to RSVP which will go to Veterans at Castle Point Hospital.

Senior Discount Program: The Mayor has volunteered to send out letters to businesses, not just in Danbury, notifying them of this program. A list of the participants will be on the city's web site and will have a reference on the first page of the site. The city will pick up the cost of getting the vendors involved, i.e., letters and postage, and also the cost of the signs that will be posted in the vendors' windows indicating their participation in the program.

Motion to adjourn at 3:45 pm by Jim.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay R. Geib

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