

DURHAM SENIOR CITIZENS BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008
1:30 PM, Durham Town Hall
3rd Floor Meeting Room
Minutes

Members Present: Shirley Bielfield, Henry Coe, Mary DiMella, John Hogarth, and Lainey Melvin. Staff: Trish Dynia, Sherry Hill and Jan Muraca. Guests: Gwendolyne Clark and Stuart Keating.

Approval of Minutes from June, 2008: None

Recreation Director's Report: Members agreed that Sherry Hill should do another mailing of program brochures. This will include information on exercise classes, bingo, the giving tree and a memoir writing class to be conducted by retired English Professor Anne Cassidy.

Due to the success of the Older Americans Celebration held at the Durham Fire Department on May 30, 2008, Sherry will be planning a similar event for December, which will include entertainment by Bob Mel and a holiday grab bag. The May event attracted 60 attendees and Sherry will plan for a larger turnout in December due to the holiday.

Human Services Director's Report: Jan Muraca reported that the water colors class would begin on Friday, October 3, and run through December 12th. There is room for ten seniors and the class has been advertised in the Town Times.

The dental, hearing and vision screening program, paid for by the State Agency on Aging through a onetime grant was a great success.

The Renter's Rebate program began on May 15th and closed September 15th.

The town flu clinic will take place on Friday October 24th this year and will be open to Durham residents age eighteen and over. The event will take place at the

Emergency operations Center on Canfield Lane from 9 AM till Noon and from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

The Community Renewal Team's assistance for deliverable fuel program will begin on November 3rd. Residents must call the Community Renewal Center in Middletown for an application and appointment date.

The Medicare RX-Xpress Mobile Unit will be at the Durham Public Library on Wednesday, November 12th from 9 AM to 1 PM. Counselors will be on hand to review Medicare plans for Durham seniors and disabled residents.

Other Business: Lainey Melvin will talk to the Board of Education and/or Superintendent of Schools about the possibility of using the high school's computer labs for senior computer courses and Korn School cafeteria for senior lunches.

Lainey distributed real estate photographs and a local map of the former Bob Hall house located at 31 Main Street. The home contains several large rooms appropriate for exercise, art classes and bingo. It is contained on a deep lot with plenty of parking possibilities, and is adjacent to town owned property in the center of town. Commission members agreed that this may be a viable location for a senior center but more study was needed.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the history of locating a senior center site and the pros and cons of the Hall house. Henry Coe felt strongly that since the Building Committee had submitted their report and the location was turned down, the committee should be dismissed and a new one formed by the Board of Selectmen. Members agreed that this was the best course of action.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia
Recording Secretary

Cc: Town Clerk, Recreation Director, Human Services Director, Committee Members.