



# COMMISSION ON AGING

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street  
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 792-3048

The meeting of the Commission on Aging for March 14, 2011 was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chairman Al Barney.

**Members present:** Chairman Al Barney, Commissioners Ann Cummings, Barbara Negri, Treasurer Lou Walsh, Municipal Agent Kathleen Gillan and Director Kathy Oles.

**Minutes from the meeting of February 14, 2011 were distributed.** A motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner Negri and seconded by Chairman Barney.

**Municipal Agent's Report:** Distributed by Municipal Agent Kathleen Gillen and accepted as read. A Motion was made to accept the report by Chairman Barney and seconded by Treasurer Walsh.

**Director's Report:** Distributed by Director Oles. A motion was made to accept the report by Commissioner Negri and was seconded by Chairman Barney.

**Treasurer's Report:** None available.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Director Oles announced that she is planning a "Senior Ball" to celebrate our senior center's 35th anniversary. The party would be in conjunction with the Youth Group and be held at St. Mary's church hall. - Director Oles has asked the commissioners for ideas for new activities. Commissioner Cummings stated she had an idea gleaned from Diane Sawyer's TV news show. She suggested researching American made products and where they can be purchased. Director Oles suggested listing the stores in the bulletin. Commissioner Negri suggested pursuing area speakers on topics of seniors interest. Chairman Barney suggested a hobby "show and tell" expo. He stated that there are many seniors who would like to share and discuss their hobbies.

**Miscellaneous (Good of the Order):** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. by Chairman Barney. Next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 11, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kay H. Visconti  
Secretary, Commission on Aging

RECEIVED

2011 MAR 16 A 10:16

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK



# COMMISSION ON AGING

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street  
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 792-3048

## Director's Report March 14, 2011

February weather was much better, to the Senior Center. We were open all but two scheduled days. On February 28 at 7 PM, We had our chance to present the 2011-2012 Bethel Senior Center budget to the Board of Finance. The room was packed, standing room only. I did thank everyone for coming to support our budget. They just chuckled; maybe they were here to support the Board of Education that went on after me. (Maybe!) The Finance Board and Selectmen were very hospitable. No negative questions. They did ask about the chairs, the dish washer and about how many people come each day.

We are going to welcome Spring by having some fun and informative gathering in March. March 1<sup>st</sup>, we had a very pleasant day at Mohegan sun. We celebrated Mardi Gras on March 4<sup>th</sup> will Jambalaya for our main dish and King Cake for dessert. March 15<sup>th</sup>, Social Security is coming to talk about changes and what's new. They will also be open for questions. March 16<sup>th</sup> we will be going to see MaMa Mia in New York City and on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Gray School of Dance will be here to do Irish dancing for us. We hope you can join us for the remaining events.

AARP Tax help has been operating for over 4 weeks and they have had a full schedule each Wednesday. So far there are 22 people listed to take the new AARP driving course in April. Ana and I are in our 3<sup>rd</sup> week of facilitating our six week course on Living Well. It is going very well. Last Monday, channel 23 had me come and record a show for eye on Bethel. It will air on March 30 at 7:30 pm.

On Feb 22, 1,700 newsletters were distributed, among mailings, deliveries to Bishop Curtis and Reynolds Ridge, and those picked up at the Senior Center. Visiting the Center, we had an average of 97 people/day. Matt Knickerbocker, our First Selectman, did tell me that the money was put aside to do the Needs Assessment and that they were going to get to it soon.

### Trips in 2010-

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| March 16   | MaMa Mia - \$104 - on Broadway-lunch included           |
| May 6-14   | Cruise to Canada - \$1225 to \$2400                     |
| April 10   | The Mouse Trap - \$67                                   |
| April 28   | Riverhouse - \$71                                       |
| May 26     | Singing in the Rain - Westchester Dinner Theatre - \$79 |
| June 16    | World Flower Show--\$96                                 |
| June 20-22 | Lancaster, PA and "Joseph"--\$397                       |

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Oles, Director, Bethel Senior Center

# **Commission on Aging Report – March 14, 2011**

**The winter was trying for all of us, especially elderly residents. Oil prices spiked and several households with elderly residents exhausted their government benefits before the end of the season. I'm able to get the household a minimum delivery paid for out of our Community Council of Bethel funds, but it won't be enough to get them through the Spring and for heating water in the summer.**

**To make matters worse, the Operation Fuel Funds, which I use to prevent shut-offs in April for people who heat with electricity or gas, were completely exhausted by the end of February.**

**I was asked by the Health Department to cover the cost of a motel room for one night for an elderly couple whose basement was flooded with sewage after the recent rainstorm**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Kathleen Gillen*

**Kathleen Gillen**