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STRATFORD TOWN CLERK

Commission on Aging Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2014
9:57 a.m. – 10:54 a.m.

Attendance: Diane Puterski, George Hangos, Geraldine Gemza, Maryann Seminatore, Gus Csuka, Justin Rompe, Patricia Shaham Dale McClanan, Kathy Faggella, Linda Fernandes-Johnson, Shirley Dominguez and Lauren Donovan

Excused: Dot Zimmer, Bernice Bova and Edith Drost

Call to Order: 9:57 a.m.

Minutes: Approved unanimously.

Updates:

- Director Diane Puterski is working on having two rooms painted and the ice machine fixed in the Baldwin Center.
- Director Puterski said that they are still working on a Wellness Park and that they are looking to put a smaller version near the Kennedy or Baldwin Apartments with the intention of building a larger one at the Baldwin Center.
- Shirley Dominguez came to speak about Renters Rebate ending 10/1/2014 and the Energy Assistance Programs will be starting soon (Oil – October; Gas – November; Electric – December).
- Shirley also mentioned that Medicare Open Enrollment will be starting on October 15th.
- Director Puterski stated that Shirley also makes home visits for those who cannot make it out.
- Lauren Donovan came to speak about 4 new programs the Baldwin Center will be starting:
  - Laughter Yoga – for stress relief, stretching and light exercise
  - Walking Group – Using the walking maps provided by Health Dept. to walk around Baldwin Center
  - Reiki – A hands on approach to energy and part of Therapeutic Thursdays
  - Ballroom Aerobics
- Director Puterski mentioned the Baldwin Center is trying to create programs so there is something for everyone.
- Maryann Seminatore suggested they hang large signs off the balcony for upcoming events to help people be more aware of programs.
- Lauren spoke about the Big E event they will be hosting with includes items from each state, wine tasting and local vendors. Notice has gone out to local newspapers and TV stations. Local Health Agencies will also be attending with informational booths.
- Justin Rompre from the Health Department will be working with Director Puterski regarding food vendors and proper paperwork needed.
- Geraldine Gemza mentioned that the flyer is a little misleading in regards to what the ticket includes and Maryann Seminatore suggested they use the phrase "food tasting" to eliminate confusion.
- George Hangos volunteered to help at the door with the Big E event as did Maryann Seminatore.
- In honor of National Senior Center Month the Baldwin Center will have a few events which include Root Beer Float event, Usual Suspects entertainment and an Ice Cream Social.
- Justin Rompre stated that on October 1, 2014 the Health Dept. will be at the Baldwin Center with Flu Shots and they will also have Flu Shots at the Health Dept. every Wednesday.
- Director Puterski stated that they did not receive full funding on the Outreach Grant which is limiting certain staff members in regards to hours. She is working with Andrea Boissevain, Health Director on a plan for the next budget in regards to alleviating this issue.
- Patricia Shaham suggested a Tag Sale and Director Puterski told her to work with Lauren to set-up.
- Patricia Shaham also mentioned the Board of Assessment Appeals will be held on 9/13/2014 to have taxes adjusted if the Tax Assessor sees fit.
- Director Puterski mentioned that within the next 5 years, they will be expanding resources to reach out to go above and beyond the Baldwin Center starting with a staff member at Birdseye Complex to help answer questions and to send people in the right direction.
- **Motion to adjourn by Linda Fernandes-Johnson and seconded by Geraldine Gemza**

Meeting concluded at 10:54 a.m.
Next Meeting – October 14, 2014