

Columbia Commission on Aging

Special Meeting, June 20, 2018

Minutes for the Special Meeting

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM, 6/20/2018

Attending: Catherine Rowe, Chairperson. Lynn Buonocore, Paula Cahalan, Maggie Ewald, Edith Prague, Millie Ramsey, Bernadette Derring and special guest, Judi Bobbi, Director of Senior Housing in East Hampton, CT.

Minutes from the meeting on 5/23/18 were read and accepted on a motion by Edith Prague, seconded by Millie Ramsey.

New Business:

Judi Bobbi, Senior Housing Director in East Hampton, CT, gave an excellent presentation of how their goal of senior housing was achieved. She gave us the following information:

1972: A Housing Authority Board was formed.

1975: Land was donated to the town and Bellwood Court, consisting of thirty units, was established.

1982: Land was purchased by the town of East Hampton and forty additional units were built. (Chatham Court.)

2013: A grant was obtained to update the apartments.

Rent in East Hampton is based on 30% of a person's adjusted income. Rent starts at \$450 per month and rental assistance is available.

The Housing Authority Board of East Hampton provides property management of the apartments, screens the applicants, maintains the budget, and makes financial decisions.

The Housing Authority Board is not subsidized by the State and depends on income from rents and grants.

Judi Bobbi suggested we begin by:

1. Obtaining the State Statute Guidelines for the development of a Housing Authority Board. Millie Ramsey will contact the State Department of Housing, (Michael Santoro), for this information.
2. CONA will bring the information to the Columbia Board of Selectmen.
3. The Board of Selectmen will establish a Housing Authority Board per State guidelines.
4. The Housing Authority Board, working with the Selectmen, will initiate the process of building senior housing.

Old Business:

Bernadette Derring gave us an update on the van.

1. Our Seniors have enjoyed trips to Elizabeth Park, Abbots, The Cracker Barrel, and the Christmas Tree Shop, just to name a few.
2. With only one vehicle, and limited hours, the scheduling of doctors appointments remains problematic.
3. We have been unable to fill the position of per diem driver due to lack of interest in this position. Bernadette is hoping we can make this a part-time position.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lynn Buonocore and seconded by Edith Prague. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM

Next meeting July 25, 2018 at 9:00 AM

Respectfully Submitted by Paula Cahalan