

COUNCIL ON AGING  
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 29, 2007

**PRESENT**

**Regular Members/Officers**

Dolores Efthim, Chairman  
Joanne Damish, Vice Chairman  
Mary Serena, Secretary  
Virginia McDavitt  
Mary Rich

**Associate Members**

Shirley Esthimer  
Robert Moody  
Edith Noyes  
Frank Noyes  
Lloyd Smith  
Florence Sundquist

**Staff**

Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker  
Barbara Coghlan, Director

**ABSENT**

**Regular Members/Officers**

Eleanor Foote, Treasurer  
Barbara Coates  
Fran Kyne  
Carole Pereira

**Associate Members**

Carolyn Lawless

**Staff**

None

**Guests:** Jeb Bobseine of The Walpole Times; Jim Brady, attorney for Competitive Power Ventures; Scott Farmelant and Orlando Martinez from Competitive Power Ventures (CPV); and Rachel Meegan, a resident of Walpole – all for the first part of the meeting only. Doris Foley, McKeen Kessel, Terry Lehrman, Ann Murphy, and Victor Serena – all for the whole meeting

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held in Room 112, Town Hall, and was called to order by the chairman, Dolores Efthim, at 1:45 p.m.

Representatives from CPV were present as well as Jim Brady, who is a resident of the Town of Walpole, were present to promote the possibility of having a power plant located on Industrial Road in Walpole. Dolores introduced Jim Brady, Scott Farmelant, and Orlando Martinez. Jim Brady stated that he is the third generation from his family to live in Walpole and has been involved in many organizations in Walpole. He is an attorney and was asked to represent a company that wants to put a power plant in Walpole. After asking many questions and doing much investigating, including a visit to the Town of Charlton, where a power plant is already located, he came to the conclusion that having a power plant in Walpole would not be injurious to the town. Although he

has been accused of the possibility of making money because of his endorsement of this deal, he said that that is not the case. He said the power plant would not pose a risk to the town and its drinking water. Orlando Martinez added that CPV has three offices nationwide and operates 8 power plants throughout the country. He said there are a number of reasons CPV was attracted to Walpole. Sulfur diesel fuel would be stored in two tanks above the ground and inspected daily, weekly, and monthly. A cement box would be underneath and around them. There would be sensors to alert them of any problems 24 hours a day. Toxin limits would be kept low. Massachusetts has one of the strictest requirements on air emissions. He added they like to be part of the community and try to find a plan that is beneficial to the town.

Questions were asked and comments were made as follows:

Shirley Esthimer – She said she is terrified of gas. Answer from Jim Brady – This type of gas is highly pressurized and has been flowing through Algonquin gas lines in Walpole for years. The line to the power plant would run off the present line. It is very safe. Orlando Martinez added that, unlike a home where the gas is delivered, the gas would run from a line that runs from Weymouth to Hopkinton and CPV would hook onto that line.

Shirley Esthimer – What is this going to do for real estate? Answer from Orlando Martinez – The biggest payer of real estate would be CPV. There would be other indirect benefits, such as hiring services and employees (about 25). CPV tries to be a good neighbor.

Florence Sundquist – All over the United States, some turbines are generated by solar and some by wind. Answer from Jim Brady – To generate the amount of electricity needed, a lot of land is needed. Only fossil fuels should be used.

Florence Sundquist – What is the cost for fuel for use by the power plant? Answer from Orlando Martinez – Natural gas costs go up and down every day. Joanne Damish commented that we don't really know what the answer is.

Mary Serena – We have enough water now. What happens in five years if we don't have enough water? Answer from Orlando Martinez – An assessment was done. He is trying to get an answer. Answer from Jim Brady – The entire process is complicated. In the year 2006 Walpole was permitted to draw a certain amount of water but drew less than was permitted. Walpole has adequate water to support this facility.

Bob Moody – What about emissions of the water? Is that going into our sewerage system? Answer from Orlando Martinez – It is used primarily to create power. All the water is demineralized and put back into the sewer system. It is recycled as much as possible.

Lloyd Smith – What is the capacity of the tanks? Answer from Orlando Martinez – 950,000 gallons.

Lloyd Smith – The tax benefit goes both ways, doesn't it? Answer from Jim Brady – Taxes in Walpole have gone up 40 per cent in the last 5 years. Nineteen out of 20 power plants have a pilot agreement, which means a break in taxes. It is beneficial to both parties.

Joanne Damish – From 1986 – 1989 she worked against getting a Boston Edison power plant. It was defeated and Boston Edison withdrew. There were the same questions as there are now. She was concerned about emissions. Walpole only has so much water. Walpole doesn't want to deal with smoke stacks. Answer from Jim Brady – He thought she was right to oppose the Boston Edison power plant. He also thought things have changed in the past 20 years, and the technology has improved. He said 324,000 gallons of fuel is stored in town that isn't even monitored.

Questions and comments from the audience were made as follows:

Rachel Meegan – She attended the meeting on Tuesday night. Senators Timilty and Rogers will not support it. The emissions are most dangerous up to 2.6 miles away from the plant. Answer from Jim Brady – The Department of Public Utilities has a way to bypass the emissions.

Terry Lehrman – Ammonia is used to clean emissions. What about leaks of ammonia? Answer from Orlando Martinez - Ammonia evaporates. There will be a tank inside a tank. In the gap there will be something like golf balls, and the balls will float to the top if there is a leak.

Terry Lehrman – How would the town be notified if there is a catastrophe? Answer from Orlando Martinez – A plan would be developed by the Walpole Police Department and the Walpole Fire Department. They will have a way of notifying people. CPV will be incorporated into their systems.

Doris Foley – She moved from Norwood to South Walpole because of the pollution in Norwood. Since she moved to South Walpole, she has been exposed to the building of Gillette Stadium and resulting pollution from the traffic and the noise and the presence of nearby prisons. In all her contacts she has gotten no satisfaction. She doesn't hold much hope from this agency either. Answer from Orlando Martinez – From our Charlton facility, correspondence is funneled to CPV. CPV is trying to work with the townspeople. The closest neighbor there was 1000 yards away and they helped this homeowner maintain his quality of life.

Doris Foley – Walpole is one of three towns in Massachusetts that doesn't have a senior center. If this comes about, could a deal be made (for a new senior center in Walpole)? The Council members laughed as they realized it was not a serious question. Scott Farmelant, however, indicated it may be possible.

Orlando Martinez stated that CPV wants to replace gas with a renewable source, such as wind or solar. Unfortunately, wind and sun aren't always available.

Bob Moody called for an end to this discussion. Orlando Martinez thanked the Council for allowing the representatives of CPV to speak at the meeting. They offered to come back and also offered to arrange a tour of the Charlton facility. This session ended at 3:05 p.m.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

A motion was made by Mary Rich to accept the secretary's report as read. The motion was seconded by Joanne Damish and passed (4-0-0).

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Prior to giving her report, Barbara Coghlan complimented the Council on Aging members on the questions asked and the comments made at the meeting with CPV.

Copies of the newsletter for December/January were distributed, which she suggested that people read for themselves. Along with the newsletter, the following were also distributed: (1) information on the "Circuit Breaker" Tax Program for 2007, (2) announcement of a joint meeting of assessors and Council on Aging on January 17, 2008, regarding senior tax issues, (3) a copy of a letter from Marie O'Donnell to Michael Boynton, Town Administrator, suggesting that the art work of the elementary school students in Walpole be moved to the first floor from the second floor so more people could see them, (4) a copy of a letter from Mary Murphy, President of the Senior Club, to Michael Boynton inviting him to the meeting of the Senior Club on November 7 to look at solutions to some of the ongoing problems at the senior center. Mr. Boynton was unable to attend the meeting; but, hopefully, those issues are settled. Since time is a consideration, Barbara asked that, from now on, complaints and suggestions should be deferred to the Council on Aging. Barbara announced that Millie Rockwood, who was assistant town clerk for many years, passed away.

Barbara and Carol Fellini put some figures together for the month of November regarding the number of people attending activities at the Center. She pointed out that the month of November included two holidays. During November, there were five trips back and forth to the Center to transport Bingo players (15 each Friday), there were four trips to Stop & Shop (23 people total), and and three trips back and forth for games or senior club (7 each day). In addition, the van was used to transport seniors for errands around town (6 people), a Day of Beauty at the Tri-County Regional High School (12 people), to Wal-Mart (18 people), a day of shopping at South Shore Plaza (18 people), to The Walpole Mall (17 people), and to transport people to the flu clinic (4 people), and to the restaurant of the month (21 people). She and Carol also put together figures for two days, November 27 and 28 (Tuesday and Wednesday), as an example of the activities that happen at the Center as follows: Shopping (23 people), Fitness (9 people), Whist (24

people), Mah Jongg (8 people), Personal Fitness Class (8 people plus the instructor), Lunch (7 people), SHINE (5 people plus the representative), and Flu Clinic (430 people, 11 volunteers; and 3 students from Walpole High School). On these days there were also meetings at the Center as follows: Regional COA Directors meeting; Neil Orlando, Norfolk County DA Office; HESSCO representative; and SHINE representative. Agencies worked with were as follows: HESSCO, Walpole Area VNA, Assisted Living/Housing, Walpole Housing Authority, The Walpole Times, Comcast, and the Department of Transportation. Town Department contacts were as follows: Administration, Building Maintenance, Assessors, Recreation, Town Clerk, Department of Public Works, Accounting, Personnel, Purchasing, Board of Health, Town Garage, and Collectors Office. Not included in the 48 hours were Bridge, Bingo, Games, Walking Club, Yoga, Veterans, TRIAD, Nutritionist, Council on Aging meeting, fuel assistance follow up, Walpole Discretionary Fund, drop-in count, computer use, and special events. Barbara said she appreciates the support of the Council on Aging. Joanne Damish suggested that questions be answered by the assessors, such as a concern about property-tax relief beyond a certain age.

### **OUTREACH WORKER'S REPORT**

Conchita Geyer reported that, this month, she has dealt primarily with fuel applications for young and old. Thanksgiving Day dinners were delivered to six people. The South Walpole Methodist Church provided the meals, and they were delivered by the Freiburger children (teenagers). Conchita attended one meeting this month, which was the Regional Outreach Workers' meeting. Patti Pomerleau from HESSCO brought the outreach workers up to date on many issues affecting the elderly population.

### **SENIOR CENTER STATUS**

Mary Rich reported that the Friends group did not have a meeting this month; therefore, there is nothing new. One of the topics at the next meeting will be the title of the building. When questioned about how much money has been raised so far towards a new senior center, Mary said the Friends never reveal their figures.

### **VAN**

No report.

### **FRIENDS OF WALPOLE COA, INC.**

See "Senior Center Status."

### **SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB**

Mary Serena reported that, following the meeting of December 5, many of those at the meeting will be going to a Chinese restaurant.

### **HESSCO**

Florence Sundquist reported that, after the meeting of November 14, the budget for 2008 was reviewed. The cost of meals will be going up to \$2.50. Overall, less money is coming in and there are indications there will be a deficit of \$150,503. One way to overcome the deficit is to stop offering ethnic meals (they should learn to eat like

Americans). Barbara said, regarding frozen weekend meals, the plan is that HESSCO will not be taking new people and the program will be phased out. Re-evaluations are needed. Florence can't see eliminating supper meals, as has been suggested. She also said more and more elderly are depressed. The new secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs is Michael Festa.. Terry Lehrman asked for a explanation of why people who can drive pick up their meals at the Center. Barbara answered by stating what she was told by HESSCO - it is a meal service and people qualify by age, and there are no income guidelines.

#### **VETERANS**

Florence Sundquist reported there will be a meeting on December 13 at which time the veterans themselves are the program.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Barbara said she would appreciate feedback from anyone who sees the show on Cable Television, "Seniors on the Go." Barbara said signs have been put up announcing that articles are being accepted to be sent to the soldiers serving in Iraq. Seven boxes have already been sent. Ginny McDavitt knitted scarves and donated them. Donations of money will be used to purchase telephone cards. The Friends of the Council on Aging is reimbursing postage. Barbara said the Lions dinner was wonderful. She also said the SHINE representative is doing a wonderful job. Conchita handles her regular schedule as well as need-based programs.

Dolores Efthim announced that Italian apricot nut bread was available after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Conrad, Secretary