



# *Town of Colchester, Connecticut*

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Mary Bylone, First Selectman

Board of Selectman Minutes

Regular Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, December 17, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Selectmen Rosemary Coyle, Denise Mizla, Denise Turner and Taras Rudko

1. CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: R. Coyle motioned to move item G within the Consent Agenda to 7B, and renumber accordingly seconded by D. Mizla. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
D. Turner motioned to add discussion of Governors Executive Order 9 R regarding Tax Deferral Program as number 15 and add Authorization for Municipal CRF Funds as number 16 and renumber accordingly, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: John Barnowski identified himself as President of the Land Trust.
5. CORRESPONDENCE: ATTACHED
6. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Approve the Minutes of the December 3, 2020 Board of Selectmen
  - B. Reappointment of Jason Radachy to Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to end 12/31/2023
  - C. Reappointment of Bob Setschinsky to Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to end 12/31/2023
  - D. Reappointment of Mark Noniewicz to Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to end 12/31/2023
  - E. Reappointment of Jason Tinelle for Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to end 12/31/2023
  - F. Reappointment of Theodore Fuini for Open Space Commission for a term to end 3/31/2023
  - G. Tax AbatementsR. Coyle motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by D. Turner. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
7. Boards and Commissions – Interviews and/or Possible Appointment and Resignations
  - A. Resignation of Beverly Seeley from the Planning and Zoning Commission: D. Mizla motioned to accepts, with regrets, Beverly Seeley's resignation from the Planning and Zoning Commission, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
  - B. Appointment of Ian Lilly from Alternate to Member for the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to end 12/1/2022: R. Coyle motioned to appoint of Ian Lilly from Alternate to Member for the Planning

and Zoning Commission for a term to end 12/1/2022, seconded by D. Mizla. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Possible Appointment of Stephanie Smith as Alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire 11/5/2023: D. Turner motions to appoint Stephanie Smith as Alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire 11/5/2023, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1 with T. Rudko abstaining.

8. Creating Ad Hoc Committee to Research Using Town Funds to Support Efforts to Secure Both Conservation and Agricultural Easements: R. Coyle motioned to approve the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Research the concept of permitting the use of municipal funding to support efforts to Secure Both Conservation and Agricultural Easements with a representative from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission Open Space Advisory Commission, Agriculture Commission, Land Trust and Jay Gigliotti as a Town Hall staff representative, seconded by D. Turner. MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1 with T. Rudko abstaining.
9. Presentation on Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) by Cindy Praisner
10. Fund Balance Policy: R. Coyle motioned to accept the Unassigned Fund Balance Policy as written by the Board of Finance, seconded by D. Turner. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
11. Five Year Lease for Copiers with Prism Office Solutions: D. Turner motioned to approve the five-year lease agreement for copiers with Prism Office Solutions and authorize the First Selectman to sign all necessary documents, seconded by D. Mizla. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
12. Approval of the Purchase of 129 Westchester Road: D. Mizla motioned for the Board of Selectmen to recommend to the Board of Finance for the approval of the purchase of 129 Westchester Road for the consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00), in accordance with the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Colchester Charter provision C1107a (B), and further the Board of Selectmen authorizes the First Selectman sign all documents related to the closing of the property, subject to approval by the Board of Finance, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
13. Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut Grant Proposal for Norton Park: The Norton Park Committee is researching grants and will come back in January.
14. Resolution with Sustainable CT: R. Coyle motioned to authorize the First Selectman to sign a Resolution with Sustainable CT, seconded by D. Turner. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
15. Governor's Executive Order 9 R Tax Deferral Program: T. Rudko motioned to continue the program that was initiated by first Executive Order and augmented by 9 R to exclude the requirement of the form, seconded by M. Bylone. MOTION FAILED 1-4-0 with T. Rudko in favor. R. Coyle motioned to institute Executive Order 9R continuing the same application procedure that must be submitted by February 1, 2021, seconded by D. Mizla. MOTION CARRIED 4 -1-0 with T. Rudko Opposing. R. Coyle motioned to continue with the low

interest rate as part of Executive Order 9R through March 31, seconded by D. Turner. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. Authorization for Municipal CRF Funds: D. Mizla motioned to authorize the CFO to submit and certify the Town of Colchester's request to receive the funding awarded through the Office of Policy and Management's Municipal Corona Relief Fund Program, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NONE

18. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:

- We had meetings prior to the snowstorm and were well prepared, there was only one reported power outage, which was resolved in under two hours. FS rode with Tim Angell on the snowplow for part of the evening.
- COVID – Colchester is at 43/100,000 cases positivity rate. There have been 96 new cases in the last two weeks. There are only 3 towns in the state not in the red.
- Youth and Social Services received a grant for \$625,000 for Drug Free Communities.
- There have been two formal FOI complaints filed against the town from Mr. Bisbikos.

19. LIAISON REPORTS:

- D. Turner – Not able to attend the Board of Assessment Appeals
  - Conservation Commission – One pending application that was tabled. Ongoing enforcement issue at Middletown Road. They elected their officers; Faulk remains the Chair.
  - Diversity and Inclusion – Had two guest speakers, Chuck Maynard and Shannon Ramsby. Continue to have discussion on recommendations.
- R. Rudko – Zoning Board of Appeals – An appeal was issued on behalf of Einhorn and Bowen, issue resolved during the meeting.
  - Planning and Zoning Meeting – Very brief meeting with no official business.
- D. Mizla – Parks and Recreation – Four new members were present. They are selling Christmas Ornaments for \$6 that feature the School for Colored Children and Cookbooks for \$18. Mailbox for letters for Santa is in front of Town Hall
  - Board of Education – They want to meet monthly with Board of Finance to update as they work on their budget. There are 254 voluntary home learning students. They voted on the completion of the WJJMS Building Committee which functioned for 8 years to complete the project. They saved \$4.8 million and came in 9.8% below budget.
  - Norton Park – They discussed the sale of the house at 129 Westchester Road. There will be an RFP put out for demolition of the house. They continue to fundraise and hope to have another informational session with the library in the new year.
- R. Coyle – Commission on Aging –Senior Resource Guide and Senior Center Directors report attached.

- Long-Term Recovery Committee – They will begin meeting twice a month instead of weekly. They had guest speaker Patty Watts to discuss mental health and technology.
- Open Space Advisory Committee – Jay has been assisting Norton Park. 2019 there was a 37-lot subdivision on Lebanon Ave. part of open space fee in lieu \$85,400. Two other subdivisions on Stanavage Road for \$20k fee in lieu, two payments away from collecting. Salmon River Watershed long term goal, federal wildlife and scenic designation, working on that with a consultant that worked with 8-mile River watershed.
- Senior Center Building Committee – There will be no town fees when it's built, but will have to pay state fees, pay \$.26 per \$1,000. Established subcommittee for public education plan. Architect and CSG had a joint meeting and an independent estimate should be done before end of year.
- Chatham Health – substantial increase of COVID. One out of every 100 people is either infected or infectious. 300 cases every two weeks, straining contact tracing. Now prioritizing youth and people over 65 and refer the rest to the state. Environmental Health is very busy, two and three times the land use permits. Trying to use up flu vaccines. Hired a new person with the grant to help with the contact tracing. The state will work with vets, dentists and other providers to help with distribution of vaccine. Chatham will likely only offer Moderna vaccine because it only needs to be stored in a regular freezer.
- FS Added that free COVID testing being offered on Mondays at the old Citizen's Bank.
  - Board of Finance – Discussion after the field presentation that money should come out of the general fund to be able to pay for the projected costs to irrigate and refurbish the fields. FS expressed concern that items were taken out of budget to get to a zero increase, and there are several items we should look at before we take money out of the general fund for any one particular concern. The Board of Selectmen should also be part of that conversation.

20. ADJOURN: D. Turner motioned to adjourn, seconded by R. Coyle. MOTION CARRIED

UNANIMOUSLY

# ***Town of Colchester Senior Resource Guide***



***2021***



## ***Colchester Commission on Aging***

Marge Mlodzinski, Chairperson

Nan Wasniewski, Vice Chairperson

Roberta Avery, Treasurer

Geraldine Transue, Corresponding Secretary

Sandra Gaetano, Member

Linda Pasternak, Member

Jean Stawicki, Member

### ***Disclaimer***

No endorsement is implied by the Town of Colchester or Commission on Aging for any business or service in this listing. This document is intended to be a helpful resource guide for the senior citizens of the Town of Colchester.

*To receive an electronic version of this guide, email the Colchester Commission on Aging.*

[COA@ColchesterCT.gov](mailto:COA@ColchesterCT.gov)

### ***Please Consider Supporting Your Commission on Aging***

Please make checks payable to: Colchester Commission on Aging

Mail to: Town of Colchester

Attn: Keri Rowley, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415

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## ***Town of Colchester Services***

### **Emergency Services**

- **All Emergencies** **911**
- Colchester Police 860-537-7270
- Ambulance Services 860-537-8437
- Fire Department 860-537-2512
- Connecticut Poison Control 800-222-1222
- Resident Trooper 860-537-7270
- Troop K 860-465-5400

### **Colchester Senior Center 95 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT**

**Patty Watts – Director of Senior Services** **860-537-3911**

- CHOICES for Medicare
- Making Memories Program - Early Stage Memory Loss/Dementia
- Meals on Wheels through TVCCA 860-934-1006
- Senior Nutrition Program, registration by 10:00 a.m. the day before
- Senior Transportation, registration by 12:00 p.m. the day before

### **Colchester Social Services 127 Norwich Ave, Suite 205, Colchester, CT**

**Valerie Geato – Director of Youth and Social Services** **860-537-7255**

- Colchester Food Bank
- Energy Assistance (September-March, annually)
- Operation Fuel
- Renters' Rebate Program (April-October, annually)
- Colchester Senior Tax Abatement Program (Assessor's Office) 860-537-7210

## ***Government***

- Colchester Government/First Selectman's Office 860-537-7200
- Center for Medicare Advocacy 860-262-4414
- Chatham Health District, East Hampton 860-537-7214
- Consumer Protection / Fraud Hotline 800-842-2649
- Info Line 211
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Norwich 860-823-3366  
(To report nursing home abuse or neglect)
- Medicare Insurance Problems, CHOICES 800-994-9422
- National Council on Aging 202-479-1200
- Protective Services for the Elderly 860-385-4225  
(To report elder abuse, neglect, intimidation, financial exploitation)
- Social Security Administration 800-772-1213

## **Legislators:**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>CT Representative, House Dist. 48, Brian Smith</b>           | <b>860-240-8585</b> |
| <b>CT Representative, House Dist. 34, Irene Haines</b>          | <b>860-240-8700</b> |
| <b>CT Senator, Senate District 33, Norm Needleman</b>           | <b>860-240-0428</b> |
| <b>US Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Joe Courtney</b> | <b>860-886-0139</b> |
| <b>US Senator, Richard Blumenthal</b>                           | <b>860-258-6940</b> |
| <b>US Senator, Chris Murphy</b>                                 | <b>202-224-4041</b> |

## ***Alphabetical Index***

### **AARP**

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ➤ AARP Smart Driving Course (meets at senior center)              | 860-974-0430 |
| ➤ AARP State Office   | 860-295-7279 |
| ➤ Colchester Chapter 4019 (meets at senior center)                | 860-537-3911 |
| ➤ Tax Aide (February-April at senior center-free tax preparation) | 888-227-7669 |

### **Alzheimer's Disease**

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ➤ 24 Hour Helpline  | 800-272-3900 |
| ➤ Alzheimer's Respite Grant for Caregivers, Norwich   | 860-887-3561 |
| ➤ Connecticut Alzheimer's Association   | 860-828-2828 |
| ➤ Making Memories Program at the Colchester Senior Center   | 860-537-3911 |
| ➤ National Office, Chicago, Illinois-Library <a href="http://www.alz.org">http://www.alz.org</a>    |              |
| ➤ Regional Office   | 860-887-3593 |
| ➤ Safe Return/Medical Alert   | 860-887-3593 |
| ➤ Senior Homecare   | 860-381-5044 |
| ➤ Silver Alert CT State Police for Wandering or Lost Elders   | 911          |
| ➤ US National Alzheimer's Office (library & materials) <a href="http://www.alz.org">www.alz.org</a> |              |

### **Alzheimer's Local Support Groups**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| ➤ Chestelm Health & Rehab, Moodus (2nd Wed. 7 p.m.)  | 860-873-1455 |
| ➤ CT College, Gallows Lane Building<br>(3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m., call to register-couples/family/groups) | 860-887-3593 |
| ➤ Waterford Library (2nd Thursday 10 a.m.)   | 860-444-5805 |

### **Adult Day Programs**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| ➤ Chestelm Adult Day Center, East Haddam | 860-873-1455 |
| ➤ Ross Adult Day Center, Norwich         | 860-889-1252 |

## **Assisted Living Facilities**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ➤ Alterra Clare Bridge, Glastonbury         | 860-659-9030 |
| ➤ A Place for Mom (Referral Service)        | 888-857-0796 |
| ➤ Atria, Rocky Hill                         | 860-288-5729 |
| ➤ Atria, Waterford                          | 860-444-6700 |
| ➤ Briar Manor, New London                   | 860-443-5376 |
| ➤ Buckingham of Brookdale, Glastonbury      | 860-652-3444 |
| ➤ Brookdale Estates Memory Care, Rocky Hill | 860-780-9994 |
| ➤ Crescent Point, Niantic                   | 860-451-9094 |
| ➤ Fitchville Home, Bozrah                   | 860-887-2585 |
| ➤ Haughton Cove Manor, Montville            | 860-848-1239 |
| ➤ Heritage Commons, Middletown              | 860-344-1221 |
| ➤ Johnson Home Inc., Norwich                | 860-877-7185 |
| ➤ Luther Ridge, Middletown                  | 860-347-7144 |
| ➤ One McDonough Place, Middletown           | 860-358-5802 |
| ➤ The Hearth, Glastonbury                   | 860-430-4247 |
| ➤ The Saybrook at Haddam                    | 860-345-3779 |
| ➤ Sheltering Arms Residential Care, Norwich | 860-887-7185 |
| ➤ The Village at South Farms, Middletown    | 860-342-8691 |

## **Attorneys**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ➤ Elder Law Centers of CT, Glastonbury and Chesterfield | 860-659-1622 |
| ➤ George Baker, Glastonbury                             | 860-430-9599 |
| ➤ Gilbert Kapack, Colchester                            | 860-537-0874 |
| ➤ Guarnaccia, Connors, Kalom & Zorn, Colchester         | 860-537-4400 |
| ➤ Jean Stawicki, Colchester                             | 860-537-3493 |
| ➤ Nicolas Mancuso, Colchester                           | 860-603-2258 |
| ➤ Robert Elliot, Colchester                             | 860-603-2094 |
| ➤ Ronald Goldstein, Colchester                          | 860-537-7044 |
| ➤ Scott & Scott, Colchester                             | 860-537-5537 |
| ➤ Timothy Kearney, Colchester                           | 860-531-3250 |

## **CT Legal Aid**

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| ➤ Willimantic | 860-456-1761 |
| ➤ New London  | 860-447-0323 |
| ➤ Middletown  | 860-344-0447 |

## **Probate Court**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ➤ CT Probate Court Administrator            | 860-231-2442 |
| ➤ Windham Probate Court (covers Colchester) | 860-465-3049 |

## **Dental Services**

- Colchester Dental Group 860-537-2351
- CT Family Dental Group 860-537-5188
- Dental Arts of Colchester 860-537-3521
- Life Long Dental Care 860-537-1444
- United Community Family Services 860-892-7042
- Westchester Family Dental 860-267-8889

## **Driver Safety**

- AARP Driver Safety Resources on line: [www.aarp.org/families/driver safety](http://www.aarp.org/families/driver%20safety)
- Associated Neurology, Driving Assessment 203-748-2551
- Department of Motor Vehicles, Norwich 860-263-5700
- Department of Motor Vehicles, Willimantic 860-263-5700
- Easter Seals, Newington, fee-based 203-630-2208
- McLean Driver Rehab Program, Simsbury 860-658-3745

## **Durable Medical Equipment**

- A2Z, Glastonbury 860-633-1882
- American Medical Supply, Hebron 860-228-0606
- Equipment to Loan: Chelsea Foundation, Groton 860-912-5707
- Lewis & Clark Medical Products 860-440-7444
- Life Alarm – Urgent Response 800-780-5433
- Life Alert 800-247-0000
- Life Line, Philips – Urgent Response 800-579-3341
- Medical Pharmacy, Willimantic 860-423-1661
- NEOPS, Norwich (Podiatric Footwear, Lymphedema Products) 860-887-2499
- New England Assistive Technology, Hartford 860-526-4492
- North East Medical Products, Old Saybrook 860-388-1437
- Oxygen - Aero All Gas 860-278-2376
- Oxygen - Apria 860-613-4600
- Oxygen - Medical Pharmacy, Willimantic 860-423-1661
- Ride-Away, Auto Modifications for disabled 860-897-6857
- West End Pharmacy – Norwich 860-889-8785
- Disabilities Network of Eastern CT, Norwich 860-823-1898  
(Ramps for low income elders, assistance with care management,  
and assistance for disabled adult children of elder mothers)
- LEARN Regional Education Center (job center/training) 860-434-4800
- Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped 800-721-2020
- Mobility Works, handicap equipment for vehicles 860-215-4100
- Colchester Senior Center (Resource List) 860-537-3911

## **Education**

- Colchester Parks & Recreation 860-537-7296
- Colchester Senior Center 860-537-3911
- Colchester Social Services 860-537-7255
- Education Programs/Higher Education Program 860-723-0000
- Three Rivers Community College, Norwich  
(Lifelong Learning Programs) 860-215-9016
- State of CT State Universities/Community Colleges  
Tuition Free Classes for seniors (audit only) 860-537-7233
- Town of Colchester Board of Education 860-537-7233

## **Energy Assistance Programs**

- Colchester Social Services 860-537-7255
- Operation Fuel (Oil heated homes) 860-243-2345

## **Food & Nutrition**

- SNAP-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program 860-823-5000
- Food Bank, Colchester Social Services at Town Hall 860-537-7255
- FUD Delivery, <https://www.facebook.com/fuddeliveryUS>
- Meals on Wheels through TVCCA 860-934-1006
- Noel's Supermarket, Colchester 860-537-5988
- Senior Center Community Café 860-537-3911
- Stop & Shop, Colchester 860-537-2361
- Westchester Marketplace, Colchester 860-365-0071

## **Home Health Care**

- Assured Quality Home Health Care, LLC, Norwich 860-373-0428
- Cleomeni Home Care Agency 860-235-8711
- Colchester Senior Center (Resource List) 860-537-3911
- Comfort Keepers, Manchester 860-649-1444
- Companions and Homemakers 860-859-1141
- Connecticut Community Care Inc. (CCCI) 860-885-2960
- From the Heart Home Care 860-224-0881
- Harford Health Care at Home 800-862-1551
- House Calls Unlimited 860-334-6699
- Kindred at Home 860-510-0210
- Panda Homecare, Glastonbury 860-633-5907
- Polish Caregivers & Homemakers 860-826-2990
- Staff Mates Home Care, Hebron 860-228-4321
- Visiting Nurse Association of SE CT 860-444-1111
- Your Extended Family, Colchester 860-967-0831

### **Hospice & Palliative Care Providers**

- Beacon Hospice Care 860-282-0527
- Center for Hospice Care 860-848-5699
- Masonicare Hospice 203-679-5200
- McLean Home Health Care and Hospice 860-658-3998
- Middlesex Hospice & Palliative Care 860-358-6000
- Vitas Innovative Hospice 844-314-3152

### **Hospitals, Healthcare Centers & Clinics**

- Hartford Health Care, Colchester 860-537-4601
- Backus Hospital, Hartford Health Care, Norwich 860-889-8331
- Hartford Hospital, Hartford 860-545-5000
- Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London 860-442-0729
- Middlesex Health Marlborough Medical Center & Emergency Dept. 860-358-3200
- Middlesex Hospital, Middletown 860-358-6000
- St. Francis Hospital, Hartford 860-714-4000
- UCONN Health Center, Farmington 860-679-2000
- United Community Family Services 860-537-7676
- Windham/Hartford Hospital, Windham 860-456-9116
- Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven 860-688-4242

### **Library**

- Cragin Memorial Library 860-537-5752

### **Medicare**

- Center for Medicare Advocacy, Willimantic 860-456-7790
  - CHOICES Senior Resources Area Agency 860-887-3561
- Medicare <http://www.medicare.gov>

### **Pharmacy Services**

- CVS, Colchester 860-537-0711
- CVS, Hebron 860-228-3888
- Nutmeg Pharmacy, Moodus 860-891-8142
- Walgreens, Colchester 860-537-9034
- Stop & Shop Pharmacy, Colchester 860-537-2570
- Fredrick Ray Pharmacy, Moodus 860-385-1072

### **Physical Therapists in Colchester**

- ECRC Physical Therapy 860-537-6798
- Performance Physical Therapy 860-537-3014
- River Rock Physical Therapy and Balance Center 860-365-5514
- Select Physical Therapy 860-603-3900

### **Physicians in Colchester**

- Colchester Internal Medicine: Dr. Hylwa 860-537-2262
- Hartford Healthcare Medical Group/Backus Healthcare 860-537-4601
- The Nurses Office 860-603-3541
- Dr. Priya Tandon 860-537-2309
- Sparrow Commons Family Practice, Pro Health, Dr. LaPorte 860-537-9901

### **Podiatry Services**

- Colchester Foot Specialists, Dr. Morgan 860-537-5520
- Marlborough Foot Clinic, Dr. Jablon 860-295-8791
- Colchester Senior Center Foot Clinic 860-537-3911

### **Recreation & Fitness**

- Anytime Fitness, Westchester 860-267-1001
- Colchester Parks & Recreation 860-537-7296
- Colchester Senior Center 860-537-3911
- CrossFit, Colchester 860-885-4543
- Snap Fitness, Colchester 860-603-5060
- Team Fitness, East Hampton 860-267-8236

### **Senior/Disabled Transportation Services**

- Colchester Senior Center, by appointment 860-537-3911
- Curtin Transportation Group (Taxi Service) 860-443-1655
- QC Home Care Solutions, Bozrah 860-337-1150

### **Skilled Nursing Facilities/Short-Term Rehab Centers**

- Apple Rehab, Colchester 860-537-4606
- Chestelm Health & Rehab, East Haddam 860-873-1455
- Cobalt Lodge Health and Rehab, East Hampton 860-267-9034
- Genesis Healthcare Harrington Court, Colchester 860-537-2339
- Greystone, Portland 860-342-2509
- Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation Center 860-295-9531

### **Social Security**

- Social Security Administration 800-772-1213

### **Veterans' Services**

- CT State Department of Veterans Affairs, Norwich 860-887-9162
- Veterans Health System, Newington 860-594-6604
- Veterans Home & Hospital, Rocky Hill 860-529-2571
- Info Line 866-928-8387



## COA Meeting-December 14, 2020

Though our building is still not open to the public, we continue to provide the following services:

- Transportation for in-town, medical rides and monthly shopping trips (masked and socially distanced)
- Meals: MOW deliveries (Tuesday-Friday) and Community Café (5 frozen meals delivered every Tuesday)
- Wellness Check outreach calls-these are now happening once per month, unless otherwise requested
- Virtual Programming with at least 1 in-person safely distanced special event per month.
- Weekly communications through email blasts and robo-calls to all members
- Management of the office: volume of phone calls have remained steady, paying bills, grant reports, management of social media, etc.
- Building is closed, but people can call in to make an appointment for any one-on-one assistance which cannot be handled by phone. (masked and socially distanced)

Regional Reopening Plan has been approved by the First Selectman and Director of Emergency Management. I conducted a staff training last Wednesday. If we can put it on the agenda next month, I can review it with all CoA members next month.

Colchester remains at a Red Alert status, as far as COVID-19. Once cases begin to trend in the right direction, CHD will be looking for a minimum of 4 weeks of stability before recommending that we reopen the senior center building to the public. The doors remain locked, with information to call in for assistance. A doorbell was also installed at the rear entrance, so we can know if anyone is waiting outdoors for us.

During the recent wind storms, three panes of glass blew out of the windows. One was repaired, but replacement glass had to be ordered for the other two. A piece of plexiglass has been fastened to the window temporarily.

We will offer 2 shopping trips to meet the demand, if needed. To keep the numbers within safe limits for social distancing, the capacity is capped at 5 seated passengers, with 1 passenger in a wheelchair. We have kept these in place through December and will reassess for January, depending on COVID positivity rates.

We served 20 citizens through our 2 open enrollment events. This year Senior Resources assisted Medicare beneficiaries through telehealth type appointments. This seemed to work well, despite not having them onsite.

Last month, I reported that Chestelm was providing a free Thanksgiving Meal To-Go, unfortunately, they had to cancel this meal when members of their dining services department became ill, and it was deemed unwise to proceed. They will be providing another meal in the future and the people who were registered will be prioritized, if space is limited.

The Holiday Stocking Project has been an overwhelming success. We had a goal of collecting enough funding to provide 25 stockings, but through the generosity of the community will be delivering over 60 stockings. We will be making the deliveries on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stockings will contain grocery gift cards, useful items (masks, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, etc.) and fun seasonal items and treats, as well.

We have some fun upcoming seasonal programs scheduled: We offered a Special Black Friday Bingo, with gift card prizes, a Make and Take Holiday Ornament Craft through Zoom with Ruth and a Hanukkah

Party with Rabbi Alter; on 12/16 we are offering a Winter Wonderland To-Go Lunch of Prime Rib, catered by TVCCA; 12/18 there is a Virtual Holiday Party sponsored by CASC, AARP CT and the CT Healthy Living Collective with other senior centers from across the state; and on 12/31 we will be hosting a Farewell 2020 Celebration via Zoom.

Since our shutdown, we've gained 61 new members. Most are reaching out due to transportation needs or to take part in some of the programs we are offering.

There will be COVID drive up testing in the old Citizens Bank parking lot today and December 21 & 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Holiday schedule: The senior center will be closing at 12 noon on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Eve and Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Eve. We will be closed on Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Day and Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Day.

**Attendance & Meals Served:**

- Meals delivered in October: Community Café:152 MOW: 330
- Monthly transports in October: 530
- Monthly attendance in October: 872
- Total Membership: 1,299