

Commission on Aging  
July 11, 2022 – Regular Meeting  
Colchester Senior Center  
95 Norwich Avenue

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Nola Weston, Vice Chair Marge Mlodzinski, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Corresponding Secretary Gerrie Transue, Roberta Avery, Rosanne Tousignant, Quinn Kozak, Alternate Terry Brown.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alternate William Otfinoski.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Senior Services Director Patty Watts, Board of Education Liaison Mary Tomasi, Cathy Russi.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nola Weston called this Regular Meeting to order at 8:30 am.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Weston led the commission members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

No additions were requested.

**4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No comments were received.

**5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 13, 2022**

Minutes of the June 13, 2022, meeting were presented for approval. Treasurer L. Pasternak noted that the amount in the Printing & Publishing Account should read \$.80.

**Motion by:** L. Pasternak

to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022, meeting with the change as stated.

**Second by:** R. Tousignant.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**6.1 CoA**

L. Pasternak noted there were no changes and the Printing & Publications Account is at \$. 80, Wellness Account is at \$4.70 and \$416.26 in the CoA account.

**6.2 Senior Center**

No deposits were made recently due to vacations but deposit reports will be available for next month's meeting. Report attached.

**7. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Weston read the Mission Statement in lieu of a report.

Marge Mlodzinski was presented with a bouquet of flowers, a card and a set of beautiful placemats made by N. Weston with appreciation for Marge's service as chair for three years.

Q. Kozak arrived during the Chair Report.

**8. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT**

Report attached.

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2022 JUL 12 AM 8:41  
Gayle Furman  
TOWN CLERK

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**9.1 Senior Center Building Committee**

M. Mlodzinski reported that the design is 95% complete. There is a meeting tomorrow, the committee hopes to go out to bid and award a bid in August with a tentative ground breaking planned for September. Director Watts and M. Mlodzinski are in charge of planning the ceremony.

**9.2 Norton Park Committee**

L. Pasternak stated there is no update as this time but a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

**9.3 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

M. Mlodzinski said 90 businesses had been vetted and final amounts will be determined at the meeting tonight. All non-profit requests have been approved, municipal requests will be reviewed next.

**9.4 2022 Programs Update**

Several program ideas were discussed. Chair Weston suggested a meeting with the new Senior Center Program Coordinator and CoA program committee members to discuss ideas.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

No further new business.

**11. SURVEY QUESTIONS**

A survey had been suggested to see what the public might be looking for. The program committee will formulate questions to be on the survey. This item will be on the August agenda.

**12. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP**

The Commission is at full membership.

**13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No comments were received.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by:** M. Mlodzinski  
to adjourn this meeting.

**Second by:** L. Pasternak.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

Chair Weston adjourned this meeting at 9:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade  
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report  
CoA Meeting July 11, 2022**

We have hired a new Program Coordinator, Jodi Savage, who is beginning today. I'll invite her to our next meeting, so you can get to know her better. On Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. we are having a Welcome Party for her. It would be great to have our CoA members there to welcome her, if you're available.

I am very grateful to Becky Kowalczyk for covering for my recent vacation. Everything went very well, and our members were glad to see her again.

The Town Budget failed again at referendum. We began the new fiscal year on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to having to make additional budgetary cuts, the proposed medical driver position will not be feasible. Potential referendum date in September, once everyone is back from summer vacations.

We had our first international trip since our shutdown to the Canadian Rockies, and the trip went fairly well—aside from some issues with plane schedules getting them to their destination in the early morning hours. We learned that 4 travelers tested positive for COVID after returning from the trip. All travelers were notified and encouraged to test at home and get a PCR test, if they became symptomatic. Travelers are recovering at home without hospitalization.

I am currently recruiting members to serve on a Strategic Planning Team, to review and revise our Strategic Plan for the department for the next 5 years (2023-2027). This will be important as it will be our guiding document through the transition to the new senior center building. I'll be looking for 7 members, 2 staff and possibly a Board liaison to serve, with representation from CoA, AARP and CSC members. I hope to begin meeting in August.

Farmers' Market Vouchers will be distributed by Alison Dvorak from Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging today (July 11<sup>th</sup>.) Pre-registration was required. Vouchers can be used for fresh fruits and vegetables sold at regional Farmers' Markets, including Sundays on the Colchester Green.

We are going to hold our first AARP Safe Driver Class since our shutdown, scheduled on July 27<sup>th</sup>. AARP has a lot of safety protocols, and we have worked with them to make sure that we are in compliance with their guidelines to hold the class on site.

The Senior Center Building Committee anticipates a ground-breaking in September, with an approximate timeline of 12 months for construction.

**Attendance & Meals Served:**

- Meals delivered in May: Community Café: 368 MOW:486
- Monthly transports in May: 884
- Monthly attendance in May: 2,419
- Total Membership: 1,584

Patricia A. Watts, Director of Senior Services/Municipal Agent