

Commission on Aging
October 10, 2023 - Regular Meeting
Town Hall - Room 1
127 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marge Mlodzinski, Vice Chair Nola Weston, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Corresponding Secretary Gerrie Transue, Roberta Avery, Terry Brown, Alternates William Otfinoski, Bonnie Trecarten.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis (?), Bernie Dennler.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marge Mlodzinski called this meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mlodzinski led the committee members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were requested.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Bernie Dennler introduced himself as the democratic candidate for First Selectman. B. Dennler spoke about his interest in senior citizens and how he hoped to help get the new Senior Center completed.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, MINUTES.

A correction was made to the September 11, 2023, minutes to read, Item 11.3 to read "on **October 14, 2023**," from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm the AARP will host 'meet the candidates' at the Senior Center, open to the public.

Motion by: G. Transue
to approve the minutes as corrected.

Second by: B. Trecarten.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

6. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Mlodzinski said a Town Meeting is scheduled for November 14 with the Town Referendum vote for the Senior Center scheduled on November 28, 2023. A candidates debate is scheduled on October 24, 2023, at North Woods.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

7.1 CoA

L. Pasternak stated things remain the same with \$448.26 in Donations, \$300 in Publications, and \$200 in Health Fair.

7.2 Senior Center

Report attached.

8. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

See attached report.

9. LIAISON REPORTS

9.1 Board of Education

9.2 Board of Finance

9.3 Board of Selectmen

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COLCHESTER, CT
2023 OCT 11 AM 8:52
Gayle Furrman
TOWN CLERK

No reports were received.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Senior Center Building Committee

The building is behind in construction due to recent weather. The structural steel is being erected, water lines have been installed and work is ongoing. The committee is continuing to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

10.2 Norton Park

L. Pasternak reported that Norton Park recently presented a revised plan to the Board of Selectmen to begin work on the part of the property that needs no remediation. The State Bond Commission has awarded a \$500,000 grant to the committee and an additional grant has been applied for.

10.3 AARP

R. Avery said a meeting of the Association for American Retired Persons will meet on October 17, for meet the candidates night on October 17, 2023. December 5 is the Holiday Lunch at Papa Z's in Colchester for a buffet lunch. An Open House at the Fire Department is planned for October 15, 2023.

10.4 ARPA

The American Rescue Plan Act Committee recently sent a plan to help citizens of Colchester through the Social Services Department. Director Watts noted that the State of Connecticut had \$10 million of ARPA funds to give to senior centers and provided \$32,691 of ARPA funds to the Colchester Senior Center Building Project for the HVAC system.

10.5 Programs for 2023

10.5a Senior Scamming - 10/23 - 10:00 a.m. a program put on by Dime Bank Vice President Chuck Maynard.

10.5b 325th Town Birthday Celebration - 10/14 - 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 am
Volunteers are needed for the activities that are planned for both children and adults at the scheduled open house. Light refreshments will be available.

10.5c Volunteers & Seniors - UR Community Cares

B. Otfinoski brought the idea of volunteers helping seniors in the community (similar to home health aides) to the Commission. Volunteers will need background checks making this a project that will require groups or businesses to partner with the commission and offer monetary help. More information is needed at this time and will be discussed at a future meeting when more details are available.

10.5d Senior Center Holiday Fair - 11/18 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

B. Trecarten is crafting a tree with donated lottery tickets for a raffle. Baked goods will be needed for the fair.

10.5e Thanksgiving Dinner - CSC Staff and CoA - 11/21 or 11/28 (Referendum Day Day)?

Discussion followed about the date for the dinner. The date will be

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November 20, 2023, at 12:00 pm. This is a dinner to thank the employees
of the Senior Center and hosted by the CoA who will join them.

12. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comments were received.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: R. Avery
to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting October 10, 2023**

We are holding a fundraiser with Mel's Downtown Creamery on Tuesday, October 10th from 5-9 p.m. A portion of their sales between these hours will be donated to the senior center for program needs.

Flu & Covid Vaccine Clinic will be held on Monday, October 16th between 9-11 a.m. at CSC. Call for an appointment.

We've been given a great opportunity to screen a documentary film, entitled "Keys, Bags, Names, Words" about living with dementia, as shared by real people and their experiences. Registration required for this free program held on October 16, 1:30 p.m.

AARP will be hosting their annual Meet the Candidates Forum for the upcoming municipal elections on October 17 at 1:30 p.m.

CoA Presents: Tips to Avoid Scams will be held on October 23rd.

Marlborough Health & Rehab will be sponsoring a lunch & learn on Senior Bullying.

The Colchester Garden Club will be leading their annual pumpkin centerpiece craft workshop.

Of course, on October 31st, we will hold our Annual Halloween Costume & Pizza Party.

CSC will be closed on both Monday, October 9th (for Columbus Day) and on Friday, October 20th, for a scheduled deep cleaning/stripping/waxing of the Dining Room Hallways floors by our Custodial staff.

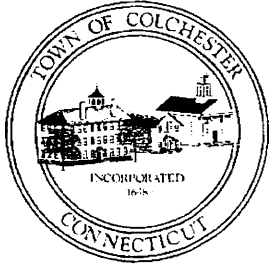
October is Fire Safety Awareness month and we have a TRIAD article featuring information for seniors to stay safe.

Town Meeting is set for November 14th, with the Referendum on November 28th. The Board of Finance approved 2 separate questions on the ballot.

Planning for the Holiday Fair & Open House is going well. Last meeting, we had about 20 volunteers looking to help out. They are canvassing the community looking for raffle items which will be used for prizes. The fair will be held on Saturday, November 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in August: Community Café:367 MOW: 688
- Monthly transports in July: 896
- Monthly attendance in July: 3055
- Total Membership: 1733



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

Transportation Itemization for September 2023

Item	Date	Amount
Daily Transportation	9/25/2023	\$55.00 Total
 Trips	 9/25/2023	 \$29.00 Total
 Combined Total		 \$84.00
Year to Date Total		\$503.00