

Commission on Aging
December 9, 2019 – Regular Meeting
Senior Center
95 Norwich Avenue

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2019 DEC 10 AM 10:35

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski, Goldie Liverant, Linda Pasternak, Roberta Avery, Jean Stawicki, one vacancy.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senior Center Director Patty Watts, Board of Selectmen Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Board of Education Liaison Mary Tomasi. Guest Sandra Gaetano.

Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

1. Call to Order

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

Chair Mlodzinski introduced Sandra Gaetano as a guest who is interested in becoming a member of the Commission on Aging.

2. Additions to the Agenda

Chair Mlodzinski requested the addition of the Commission on Aging Roundtable as Item 7.4 on the agenda.

Motion by: J. Stawicki

to add Commission on Aging Roundtable to the agenda as Item 7.4 under New Business.

Second by: R. Avery.

Vote: Unanimous to add item 7.4 under New Business.

3. Review of November 12, 2019 Minutes

Motion by: J. Stawicki

to amend the minutes under Item 6.3 - Feedback/Alzheimer's Association Presentation, to add that a motion was made and passed to donate \$50 to the Alzheimer's Association; Item 6.5 Meeting with Bacon Academy Science Administrator/Students, should read that, "Chair Mlodzinski *will meet* with Environmental Studies Teacher . . .".

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Abstaining: M. Mlodzinski (absent from meeting).

In favor: All others. Minutes approved as amended.

4. Financial Reports

4.1 CoA

R. Avery reported the Program Account has \$466.26 and the Printing and Publications Account balance is \$108.

4.2 Senior Center

Director Watts reviewed the Transportation Report
Transportation Itemization for November 2019

Daily Transportation	12/03/19	\$202.50
Trips	12/03/19	\$155.00
Combined Total		\$357.50
Year to Date Total		\$1699.10

5. Director of Senior Services Report

December 9, 2019 – Report –

Open enrollment for Medicare closed on December 7th. The Center hosted two Open Enrollment Screening Events through support by Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging.

The Holiday Fair and Open House was a success. Some After Sale tables are still set up in the Dining Room, so far over \$2500 was raised! P. Watts thanked her staff and the many volunteers for making a very busy day run so smoothly and for all of the leg work that went into soliciting for gift baskets and gift certificates. There were an astounding 110 baskets/certificates available, including a generous basket from the CoA. Thank you to the very generous community partners.

Two large totes of donated non-perishable food items were brought to the Colchester Food Bank for the November Food Drive.

A very busy month of programs is scheduled this month and into the New Year! There are four community groups with children coming into the center to spread some holiday cheer – Youth Force Group with YSS, a group of families that call themselves the “Colchester Kindness Caravan”, a family that is reaching out to teach about their Swedish heritage for Santa Lucia Day and a Daisy Troop from Colchester. There is also the wonderful collaboration with JJIS where 25 needy seniors will be gifted items through their Holiday Box Program.

There are several seasonal events: Winter Wonderland Holiday Luncheon, an evening trip to see the Holiday Lights at Goodwin Park, the Annual Hanukkah Party with Rabbi Alter and a New Year’s Brunch ‘n Bash with live entertainment by Noah Lis, who was a contestant on NBC’s “The Voice”.

The Senior Moments Choral Group is performing their Holiday show to four different senior care facilities this month.

Russell Melmed, Chatham Health’s Director of Health will be coming in for a Meet and Greet on December 13.

There are two options for free snow removal for seniors: The Interact Club at Bacon Academy is offering complimentary sidewalk shoveling and front stoop/walkways clearing. There are two men in town who have offered to clear snow (two inches plus) from the homes of seniors who are either physically or financially constrained. Pre-registration in both programs is required.

Just a reminder that inclement weather postings for delays, closures or other service impacts will be on WFSB (Channel 3) and various affiliated radio stations and also on the Colchester Senior Center Facebook page. TVCCA makes the call on whether SNP is served and MOW are delivered. MOW clients are given emergency food packs to be used when TVCCA closes.

There are a number of scheduled changes this month: The Senior Center will be closed on December 25, Christmas Day and January 1, New Year’s Day and will be closing at noon on December 24 and December 31. Lunch on December 24 will be served at 11 am.

Director Watts will be on vacation the week of December 23, returning on December 30.

Attendance and Meals Served:

- Meals served in October: on site: 212 MOW: 260
- Monthly Transports in October: 971
- Monthly Attendance in October: 2376
- Total Membership: 1348

6. Old Business

6.1 Senior Center Building Committee

The Senior Center Building Committee met on November 12, 2019. A discussion was held regarding a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for prices, materials, etc., then architects will be interviewed and a referendum will be scheduled. It takes time to gather all the information to be able to go out to referendum. M. Egan will be the Liaison from the Board of Finance.

6.2 Norton Park Committee

The Norton Park Committee met on November 13, 2019, reviewing maps of the site and historical information. There is a great deal of site work that needs to be completed before actual final work can begin. Ideas are being discussed about the design of the park and how to use the items found in the building in that design. Donations will be sought to complete the work.

6.3 Meeting with Bacon Academy Science Administrator/Students

This meeting will be with Teacher J. Lavasseur and students of the Environmental Club after school with M. Mlodzinski and N. Wasniewski to discuss a presentation.

7. New Business

7.1 Spring Project(s)

Chair Mlodzinski stated the Environmental Club presentation is one idea, another is the second part in the series about Alzheimer's, "Living with Alzheimer's", updating information regarding scams that are circulating, possibly a presentation from a podiatrist. Further discussion in January.

7.2 Senior Resource Guide

The guide is nearly out of stock and in need of revisions. R. Avery, J. Stawicki and L. Pasternak volunteered to revise the Guide. Director Watts has updated information and offered assistance.

7.3. 2020 Meeting Calendar

The October regular meeting date falls on a Monday.

Motion by: N. Wasniewski

to approve the meeting date calendar with the change of the October meeting date to Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Second by: J. Stawicki.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

7.4 Commission on Aging Roundtable

The next meeting will be held at the East Haddam Senior Center on January 16, 2020, from 1:00 pm -3:00 pm. Colchester CoA will host the July 16, 2020, Roundtable.

8. Commission Membership

G. Liverant is retiring from the Commission this month. That will leave two regular member and two alternate positions vacant.

Chair Mlodzinski presented G. Liverant with a poinsettia plant and all thanked Goldie for her service. G. Liverant said she would continue to help out the Commission.

P. Watts said Sandra Gaetano is a very involved, active member of the Senior Center.

Motion by: R. Avery

to have Chair Mlodzinski write a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending the appointment of S. Gaetano to this Commission.

Second by: J. Stawicki.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

9. Citizens' Comments

R. Avery noted that January 14, 2020, is the election for a new State Representative for this District and an AARP meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2019.

G. Liverant a Blood Drive is being held at the Synagogue December 24, 2019, from 9am-12pm.

10. Adjournment

Motion by: J. Stawicki

to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: R. Avery.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn.

M. Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk