

Commission on Aging
January 13, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Senior Center – 95 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Linda Pasternak, Roberta Avery by cell phone, Jean Stawicki, one vacancy.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senior Center Director Patty Watts, Board of Selectmen Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Board of Education Liaison Mary Tomasi. guests Sandra Gaetano, Gerrii Transue, Art Shilosky.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Additions to the Agenda

No additions requested

Chair Mlodzinski asked all to introduce themselves to the prospective members were present.

3. Welcome First Selectman Mary Bylone

First Selectman Bylone stated she is excited about the new Senior Center. M. Bylone has been meeting with Town Hall employees and committees and will continue with her Community Conversations. She invited people to visit at her office but stated it may be best to make an appointment as she is not always in the office.

4. Review of December 9, 2019, Minutes

Motion by: J. Stawicki
to approve the December 9, 2019 minutes as read.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

5. Financial Report

5.1 CoA

There is \$416.26 in the CoA budget and \$108 in the Town Printing and Publications line item.

5.2. Senior Center

Director P. Watts presented the following:

Transportation Itemization for December 2019

Daily Transportation	1/03/2020	\$ 48.00
	1/03/2020	134.00
Combined Total		<u>182.00</u>
Year to Date Total		\$2063.11

6. Director of Senior Services Report

See attached report from Director of Senior Services Patti Watts.

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7. Old Business

7.1 Senior Center Building Committee

Four bids have been received for the architectural services. Chair Mlodzinski is on the Senior Center Building Committee and said an aggressive timeline has been drafted with architect interviews to be completed by end of January.

7.2 Norton Park Committee

L. Pasternak is an alternate on the Norton Park Committee and reported that donations have come in, grant requests are being prepared, fundraising is being planned. The remediation is still under way.

7.3 Meeting with Bacon Academy Science Administrator/Students

Chair Mlodzinski and Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski met with Environmental Club teacher and students to discuss a presentation to the CoA on how seniors are affected. "Food, Stuff, Energy and Water" will be presented in April from 3:00 pm-4:00pm at the Senior Center with a date to be determined. There is a Pollinators presentation being held at Bacon Academy all day on April 22, 2020, Earth Day and there is a possibility the CoA members could participate.

7.4 Spring Project(s)

The first Alzheimer's information presentation was well attended and there are a series of these presentations available. Members were in agreement to go ahead with an evening program at 6:00 pm at the Senior Center by the Alzheimer's Association in May with a date to be determined.

7.5 Senior Resource Guide

Chair Mlodzinski and J. Stawicki, L. Pasternak and R. Avery will work on the revisions necessary to update the Senior Resource Guide.

8. New Business

8.1 Annual Report

Chair Mlodzinski and N. Wasniewski will work on the Annual Report.

9. Commission Membership

G. Transue, S. Gaetano and A. Shilosky are prospective new members. At least two hopefully will be appointed at the next Selectman and the third will begin the application process.

10. Citizens' Comments

It was noted that the Special Election for 48th District State Representative is being held Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

P. Watts is updating the Center's existing policies.

The Commission on Aging Roundtable will be held January 16, 2020 in East Haddam from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

G. Transue thanked P. Watts and M. Mlodzinski for the information regarding the CoA.

M. Tomasi said there will be a Historical Society/Federated Church/Library sponsored display of photos from the 1938 hurricane at the February 1, 2020, function held at the church.

Mary Tomasi noted that a public forum is being held at the Town Hall, Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 6:30 pm for questions or concerns on any topics.

11. Adjournment

Motion by: L. Pasternak
to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: J. Stawicki.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9: 17 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

COA Meeting-January 13, 2020

25 Holiday Boxes were delivered to low income seniors in Colchester on December 20th through a wonderful, long-standing collaboration with Jack Jackter Intermediate Schools. Rob and Brian Gustafson (from CHA), Sheri Blesso and I hand-delivered the boxes to their recipients. It's always a favorite day of mine.

Noah Lis (a former-Top 20 contestant on NBC's hit show The Voice) put on perhaps the best musical show we've ever had here for our New Year's Brunch n' Bash. Everyone present enjoyed his multi-talented performance and we've gotten requests to have him back, in the future.

On January 15th we are having a Laugh & Learn Lunch with guest speaker Pam Atwood.

We have a new program sponsored by our community partner, Harrington Court. The monthly crafting workshops is called Crafting with "The Court" and will be led by Tricia Velte, Admission Director and provided for our members free of charge. This will replace the previous "Pinterest Craft" monthly workshops.

Russell Melmed, Chatham Health's Director of Health had to reschedule his Meet & Greet. The new date is Friday, January 17th at 10 a.m.

Currently working on year-end statistics and the Departmental Annual Report, in preparation for the budgetary process.

Mary Bylone is holding a series of Community Conversations around town and will be having one at the senior center on Wednesday, January 22nd at 10 a.m.

We're hosting Downton Abbey Day on Friday, January 24th beginning at 11 a.m. with a presentation by Susan Jerome, who is the Historic Textile and Costume Collections Manager at URI entitled "Downton Abbey Style: Influences on Fashion 1912-1925 followed by a light tea luncheon. After the tea, we will be screening the Downton Abbey movie.

We have begun taking AARP Tax Aide appointments, which will be held on Fridays beginning February 7th through March 27th.

Our grand total for our Holiday Fair & Open House was \$2,635.90. Those funds will be used to provide programs and supplies, which are not covered through our operational budget.

On January 17, we will be closing early so that the custodial staff can continue stripping and waxing our floors. The kitchen and hallway will be the next areas completed. This has to be completed on a holiday weekend to insure that they can lay down enough layers of wax, drying time and buffing. The senior center will remain open until 1:00 p.m. all afternoon programs are cancelled.

The senior center will be closed on Monday, January 20th in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals served in November: on site: 231 MOW: 318
- Monthly Transports in November: 784
- Monthly Attendance in November: 1,769
- Total Membership: 1352