

Commission on Aging
July 13, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski, Jean Stawicki, Linda Pasternak, Roberta Avery, Gerrie Transue at 8:40 am.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Gaetano.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Mary Bylone, Board of Selectmen Liaison Rosemary, Director of Senior Services Patti Watts.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mlodzinski called this Regular Meeting to order at 8:31am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mlodzinski led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were requested.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JUNE 8, 2020 MINUTES

Motion by: N. Wasniewski

to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting, as read.

Second by: J. Stawicki.

Vote: Abstaining: J. Stawicki (absent from meeting)
In favor: All others present. Approved. (5-0).

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1. CoA

R. Avery reported that the Commission budget is the same at \$416.26 and the Town Printing and Publication line item is at \$300 as of July 1, 2020.

5.2. Senior Center

Director Watts reported the following:

Transportation Report for June 2020

Daily transportation	7/10/2020	\$0.00
Trips	7/10/2020	\$0.00
Combined Total		\$0.00
Year to Date Total		<u>\$2623.11</u>

No deposits were made at this time.

RECEIVED
GOLCHESTER, CT
2020 JUL 13 PM 4:21
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

6. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Mlodzinski sent a letter of appreciation to *The Rivereast Bulletin* thanking Director Watts and staff for all they have done for seniors during this Covid-19 situation. The Commission on Aging Roundtable has been cancelled and it may be possible to host it in the Fall, as well as other programs originally scheduled for this spring and summer. The Seniors to Seniors Program with Bacon Academy has reinforced the idea that there should be co-generational activities.

7. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

See attached report.

G. Transue joined the meeting during this report.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1. Senior Center Building Committee

M. Mlodzinski reported that the committee has scaled down the size of the building and is trying to define the scope of the building. It will be one floor about 15,000 square feet. It was originally hoped to have a referendum in the fall of this year. Selectman Bylone noted that under the Governor's directive, if the referendum is held in the Fall, it would not be a public referendum but done the same way the budget was done with the Board of Finance voting. It may be better to wait for the referendum for all to have the chance to participate.

8.2. Norton Park Committee

N. Wasniewski reported that the bridge work has been started and when completed the Norton Park property will be cleared. A fundraising program and the design plan have been forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for approval. The Committee had hoped to hold a public forum to provide information to the public but that has been postponed.

8.3. Senior Center Resource Guide

Chair Mlodzinski noted that J. Stawicki, R. Avery and L. Pasternak have reviewed the Senior Resource Guide. M. Mlodzinski would like to put this project on hold for further review. G. Transue suggested it be made available prior to the referendum on the new Senior Center.

8.4. Reopening of Senior Center

At this time, it is projected that the Senior Center will open on September 1, 2020, however, that may change. P. Watts is waiting for guidance from the State Unit on Aging.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee of R. Avery and M. Mlodzinski submitted the following slate of officers for consideration:

Chair: M. Mlodzinski
Vice Chair: N. Wasniewski
Treasurer: R. Avery
Corresponding Secretary: J. Stawicki

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Motion by: R. Avery
to elect the slate of officers as presented.
Second by: L. Transue.
Vote: Unanimous to approve as presented.

An article will be sent to The Rivereast Bulletin noting the officers.

9.2. Annual Report

Chair Mlodzinski sent the Annual Report to all members for review. M. Mlodzinski said that the projection for the Town is that the population will be 40% seniors by 2030 noting how important the Senior Center will be to citizens. Minor changes were suggested and will be completed for submission. The report will be available on the Town website.

10. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this committee is five full members and two alternates. The Committee is in need of two alternates.

11. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None received.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: R. Avery
to adjourn this meeting.
Second by: N. Wasniewski
Vote: Unanimous.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9:11 am

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

COA Meeting-July 13, 2020

Thank you to Marge for the beautiful Letter to the Editor that ran in the July 3, 2020 edition of the *River East News Bulletin*. I was very proud to share it with my hardworking team and we are all grateful to you for your kind words.

The Town and Board of Ed budgets passed through the Board of Finance. There is a 0% increase.

All staff were called back into the office effective, June 15th. All staff are back in the office for their regularly scheduled hours, currently, no one is working from home. We held our first staff meeting since March last week.

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

- Transportation for in-town and medical rides, both are picking back up in volume
- Meals: MOW deliveries (Tuesday-Friday) and Community Café (5 frozen meals delivered every Tuesday)
- Wellness Check outreach calls
- Increased programming-for July there are 3+ offerings daily either low tech (Conference Call platform) or high tech (Zoom platform). We're at about 50% of the programs that we had offered in person, which is phenomenal
- Weekly communications through email blasts and robo-calls to all members
- Management of the office: volume of phone calls have remained steady throughout our closure with an influx during the Economic Stimulus Payments. Paying bills, grant reports, management of social media, etc.

AARP Tax Aide program was able to complete its season. We greatly appreciate the efforts of Janet Hale, Coordinator and her team of volunteers in what was a difficult season. When we closed to the public, they completed all returns that were in process. They also came back after gaining approval from AARP National to complete the two weeks' worth of appointments that were impacted by the closure. Everyone who had a scheduled appointment this year had their returns completed. 168 people were served through the program this year.

The Senior to Senior issue of the 6-Word Memoir collaboration with Bacon Academy was completed and is available for purchase for \$5.00. It's full of insightful passages written by our seniors and the graduating class of 2020 at BA. We anticipate an intergenerational book launch early in the school year, if we are able to do so safely.

With very few exceptions, we have decided to cancel trips through this calendar year. I have been in touch with all of our travel partners to reschedule popular trips in 2021. Refunds have been issued to all people registered for 2020 cancelled trips.

Farmer's Market Vouchers will be available this year. Our Area Agency on Aging expects to receive them this week and will let us know how they plan to distribute them this year. Eligibility includes person 60 years of age and older and a maximum household income of 185% Federal Poverty Levels (households of 1=\$1,968/mo. Households of 2-\$2,658/mo.) Total value of the voucher booklet is \$18 to be used for produce at CT Farmer's Markets.

We continue to develop our reopening plan with an estimated date of September, 2020. With Governor Lamont pausing the State's Phase 3, it may impact our reopening date. We are awaiting guidance from the State for more information, particular to the safe reopening of senior centers Statewide. Last week, I asked our professional organization, CASC, to survey its members to see when they were anticipating reopening. September is the earliest recommended time, with some delaying until 2021. Massachusetts Councils on Aging have wonderful resources posted on their website with helpful COVID-19 resources. Obviously, we will take all of this information into the development of our plan. Depending on the restrictions, we may opt to keep some of our programs in a digital format, particularly our fitness programming

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals served/delivered in April: 444 MOW: 493 (That's a total of 1050 meals delivered!!!)
- Meals served/delivered in May: 262 MOW: 597
- Monthly transports in April: 375
- Monthly transports in May: 418
- Monthly attendance in April: 234
- Monthly attendance in May: 461
- Total Membership: 1307