

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Treasurer Roberta Avery at 8:39 am, Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski, Secretary Gerrie Transue, Linda Pasternak, Rosanne Tousignant, Alternate Nola Weston.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Gaetano, Alternate Quinn Kozak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Board of Education Liaison Mary Tomasi, Senior Center Director Patty Watts, Board of Finance Liaison Mike Egan, Cathy Russi.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mlodzinski led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were requested.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Chair Mlodzinski asked each member to introduce themselves as there are new members on the commission.

Cathy Russi commented that she recently called the Senior Center to request rides for medical appointments and while she was happy with the two rides she was able to book, the additional rides were denied. C. Russi suggested that an additional part-time driver and a small vehicle be added in the budget so that the needs for out of town rides could be met.

R. Avery joined the meeting at during Citizens' Comments.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 12, 2021

The April minutes were submitted for approval.

Motion by: L. Pasternak

to approve the minutes of April 12, 2021, as read.

Second by: G. Transue.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 CoA

R. Avery reported no changes since last month - the balance remains at \$516.26, the Printing and Publications line item is at zero.

6.2 Senior Center

Director Watts gave the following report:

TRANSPORTATION ITEMIZATION REPORT FOR APRIL 2021

Daily Transportation	4/19/21	\$55.00	Total
Trips	4/19/21	47.00	Total

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2021 MAY 11 AM 9:09
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

Combined Total	102.00
Year to Date Total	<u>\$584.50</u>

7. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Mlodzinski noted that there is a possibility this Commission may be able to meet in person for the June meeting.

The Board of Finance is having a Special Meeting on May 5, to approve the budgets and to set a date for the budget referendum.

M. Tomasi said Bacon Academy graduation will be on June 19, 2021. The BOE budget is a 2.78% increase over last year's budget. Solar energy is being looked into for two of the schools and the next BOE meeting is May 11, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

M. Egan said the next BOF meeting is on May 12, 2021. There has been a reduction in the Selectmen's budget to a 7% increase, this with the BOE budget is a one mil increase in taxes.

8. DIRECTOR SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

See attached report.

Director Watts addressed comments made regarding the transportation for medical appointments. There are two different operating budgets for transportation and two in-town drivers. The drivers have taken on new responsibilities delivering meals. The medical transportation grant is not in the Town operating budget and rides are limited to 40 miles out of town. The center is monitoring denials.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Community-Wide Health Fair

Chair Mlodzinski has contacted Parks and Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn and Youth Services Director Val Geato regarding the proposed health fair. Both directors are willing to partner with the Commission on Aging for the fair. N. Weston and R. Tousignant have agreed to co-chair this event. Chair Mlodzinski said two sub-committees will be Marketing and Outreach, Solicitation and Distribution. These two committees will be set up next month. Also, a meeting will be held with Chatham Health to discuss the proposed health fair.

9.2 Senior Center Building Committee

The Senior Center Committee will begin outreach in June with a letter to every household.

9.3 Programs for 2021

A *Healthy Living for your Brain and Body* presentation is scheduled for May 19, 2021. The program will be presented by Kurt Sortwell from the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter. Call the Senior Center or see the Town website for zoom information.

There is a program for the Town of Windsor Seniors entitled *Successful Aging for Seniors*. L. Pasternak will look into this program for further information.

9.4 Norton Park Committee

N. Wasniewski reported that the Norton Park Committee has given power point presentations to the CBA, Lions, Senior Center and a recorded version is available on the town website. A well attended clean-up day at the park area was held to clean a trail by the river. Recently, a

\$15,000 grant was awarded to the Committee. Also, a banner has been put up on the property. It is anticipated that the overall site work and the house demolition will be done soon.

9.5 Senior Center's Policies and Procedures

Director Watts, Chair Mlodzinski, R. Avery, G. Transue met to review the manual and today a final read will be done prior to presentation the policies and procedures to the Board of Selectmen.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Nominating Committee - June Elections

The Commission's by-laws call for a three member nominating committee to present a slate of officers to the Commission at the June meeting for the election of officers.

R. Avery, L. Pasternak, and G. Transue volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

11. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIPS

The membership is complete at this time. Chair Mlodzinski requested each member review the updated contact list to be sure the information is correct.

12. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

C. Russi thanked the commission for their hard work and said she is, and always has been, an advocate for seniors and would like to see commission look into how to provide more transportation.

G. Transue said she would like to keep in mind how to prioritize transportation issues for the future and to look at how other senior centers handle the need for transportation.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: R. Avery
to adjourn this meeting.

SECOND BY: N. Wasniewski.

VOTE: Unanimous to adjourn.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting May 10, 2021**

The Colchester Senior Center reopened to the public, effective Monday, May 3rd for some in-person programs. There are morning sessions from 9-12 and afternoon sessions from 1-4 p.m., we close the building from 12-1 p.m. so staff can eat lunch and disinfect the building between program sessions. Some programs are still being held virtually. There are capacity limits for each program, as furniture is spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines and pre-registration is required for all in-person activities. Mask wearing and social distancing while present in the building is required.

The plan is working exceptionally well. People have been aware and compliant with all aspects of our reopening, and it is wonderful to have our members returning after such a long stretch of closure.

Volunteer Receptionists met for a re-training on April 22nd, in preparation to return to their volunteer duties. Every volunteer is eager to return.

CHD says that indoor dining and fitness programming are still considered high risk activities and are not recommended at this time.

Effective, May 19th, further restrictions will be lifted statewide. Social distancing will be lowered to 3' and mask wearing will still be required for indoor activities. We are planning the June activity calendar to be more inclusive of a broader range of activities, and with reduced social distancing capacity limits will increase in each space and on buses.

We had 150 responses to the digital travel survey, which was more than double the responses to previous annual travel surveys. We definitely have interest in travel. Ruth and I met with our travel vendors over the past 2 weeks to talk about booking some trips in late 2021 into 2022.

The Making Memories Program will begin to run on a shortened schedule in-person, beginning the week of May 17th.

The Colchester Lions' Club has sponsored a Welcome Bag Lunch—Grab & Go style for May 19th—in celebration of our reopening.

CSC received a generous donation from Colchester Cares, in the amount of \$575, and Mel's Downtown Creamery held a fundraiser for us with a portion of their sales given to us, on our opening day. The check was for \$170. We are always grateful for our generous community partnerships.

A new 14 passenger bus, equipped with a wheelchair lift was ordered. Its anticipated delivery will be in the fall. 80% of the purchase price will be funded through a federal grant, which has been approved. The cost to the town will be less than \$15,000.

The senior center will be closed on Monday, May 31st, for Memorial Day.

We are looking forward to the start to the public education for the new senior center project and sharing more with the voters about how a new facility would further enhance our ability to serve our senior community.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in March: Community Café: 231 MOW: 546
- Monthly transports in March: 620
- Monthly attendance in March: 1,118
- Total Membership: 1,387