

Commission on Aging
June 21, 2021 – Special Meeting
Senior Center – 95 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Treasurer Roberta Avery, Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski, Linda Pasternak, Rosanne Tousignant, Alternate Nola Weston.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Gaetano, Secretary Gerrie Transue, Alternate Quinn Kozak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Education Liaison Mary Tomasi, Senior Center Director Patty Watts, Cathy Russi.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marge Mlodzinski called this Special Meeting to order at 8:30 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

C. Russi commented on the windows at the Senior Center that were scheduled for replacement.

P. Watts noted that this is in the facilities budget under Director J. Paggioli.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 10, 2021

Minutes of the May meeting were submitted for approval.

Motion by: R. Avery

to approve the minutes of May 10, 2021 as read.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 CoA

R. Avery reported there were no changes to the financial report and it remains at \$516.26 with a zero balance in the Printing & Publications line item.

6.2 Senior Center

Report attached.

7. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Mlodzinski read the following statement: "At the last meeting a citizen raised an issue regarding transportation that she thought might be addressed by the CoA. While I empathize with her concerns, the CoA has no jurisdiction over policies, programming, budgeting, staffing, activities or transportation at the SC. While there are a lot of similarities or possible overlaps in our activities, SC staff are Town employees and report directly to the First Selectman."

The Town Budget, having failed the recent referendum, will be reviewed at the Board of Finance meeting on June 24, 2021 and a town meeting will be scheduled to set a date for a new referendum.

The Board of Education budget was subject to a recount and was approved by three votes. Fire Department referendum for new equipment is scheduled for July 27.

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2021 JUN 22 AM 9:51
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

A Healthy Living for your Brain and Body held in May and presented by Kurt Sortwell from the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter was well received. It was suggested to send a \$50 donation to the Alzheimer's Association.

Motion by: R. Avery
to send \$50 to the Alzheimer's Association.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

The Senior Center Policies and Procedures were approved by the Board of Selectmen and will be reviewed again after the new Senior Center is open.

The Long-Term Recovery Committee will continue as an ad-hoc committee with Selectman Bylone and a member of the Board of Finance to review the distribution of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

L. Pasternak said she recently heard a speaker on an overview of financial concerns and tips for caretakers of those with dementia. It is a series of programs.

The local American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is holding a luncheon on July 13 at Papa Z's and will begin regular meetings in September at the Senior Center.

Mary Tomasi said Bacon Academy held a great graduation on June 19. A new kindergarten teacher will be needed due to high enrollment for September.

8. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

Report attached.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Community-Wide Health Fair

The fair's theme will be "Healthy at Every Age". Colchester Children's Collaborative (C3), Cragin Memorial Library, Parks & Recreation and Youth Services are all participating. A location is yet to be determined. Chair Mlodzinski would like to see two subcommittees for marketing, solicitation and outreach.

9.2 Senior Center Building Committee

Presentations on the proposed senior center have been given to the Colchester Business Association(CBA) and the Lions Club. The cost of both the fire equipment and the new Senior Center will be \$13.09 per year based on a median house assessment of \$165,000. This figure is based on the declining debt service and long range planning of the center.

Two more presentations at the Senior Center are planned before September. Information is also available on the town website.

9.3 Programs for 2021

Chair Mlodzinski said she would like to see two more programs this year. K. Sortwell has a two part caregiver presentation that would be a possibility.

9.4 Norton Park Committee

Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski reported Scout Troop 109 held a clean-up day along the river trail at the park. The Colchester Fish & Game Club and the Colchester Land Trust in collaboration with the Connecticut Parks and Forest Association held a hike beginning at the park location. It was noted that several out of state visitors participated in the hike.

Demolition of the house should be completed soon.

Several presentations have been given to various groups in town. The power point presentation has been recorded and is available on the town website.

10. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

10.1 Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of officers for consideration:

Chair: M. Mlodzinski

Vice Chair: N. Wasniewski

Treasurer: L. Pasternak

Corresponding Secretary: G. Transue

R. Avery asked for further nominations from the floor. None received.

Chair Mlodzinski asked for a motion to accept the slate as presented.

Motion by: R. Avery
to elect the slate of officers as submitted.

Second by: R. Tousignant.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

C. Russi noted that in past health fairs the police, fire department with the ambulance and Lifestar were invited. C. Russi stated she was the citizen that stated a concern for additional out of town medical transportation.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: R. Avery
to adjourn.

Second by: N. Wasniewski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this Special Meeting at 9:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting June 14, 2021**

The revised CSC Policies and Procedures Manual were approved on May 20th by the Board of Selectman. I want to thank our subcommittee members Marge Mlodzinski, Gerrie Transue, and Robbie Avery and Selectman Rosemary Coyle for their assistance on this project. We decided that these would be reviewed on-going and we anticipate that we will need to review and revise before moving into the new senior center.

With easing of state guidelines on May 19th, the senior center took more steps to return to pre-pandemic operations. Those fully vaccinated may now mask at their own level of comfort and those who are not vaccinated are still required to wear their masks when in public. Capacity limits increased for classes and close-proximity programs were able to resume such as Mah Jongg, card playing, Wii Bowling and others. It is wonderful to be back open.

Mask wearing is still required on public transit, per the Governor's orders. Because our Dial-A-Rode services are considered public transit, this does apply to the senior buses, both in-town and medical rides.

The only things we have not resumed are in-person fitness classes and in-person dining. TVCCA will make the determination regarding dining. When we resume in-person fitness (which I anticipate doing in September) we will be offering hybrid classes, at the request of our patrons, some of whom enjoy the ability to join class from home. We have purchased a laptop computer for this purpose.

We have begun contracting trips again. There is excitement over seeing some of the trips which had to be cancelled during the pandemic rescheduled. This is important because the trip comps that we receive help to fund programs at the senior center given that we don't have funding in our operational budget for programs.

We will be running bus shuttles to the polls on Tuesday, June 15th for the budget referendum. Reservations for a ride need to be made by noon the day before.

Last week, Missy Bauman and I attended a grant hearing for renewal funding in the amount of \$19,000 used to run the Making Memoires Program. We will be notified in July, if we were awarded the grant.

We had to have 2 new air conditioning units installed (Veterans' Room and Dining Room) because they weren't working and with the hot weather we had last week, were concerned for the safety of members and staff.

We are wrapping up the fiscal year 2021, which will be ending on June 30th.

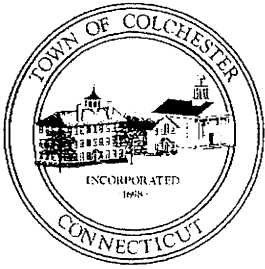
We've posted the architects' vision board for the new Colchester Senior Center proposal and have heard a lot of enthusiasm about the project, so far.

I am in the process of conducting annual personnel evaluations for the Senior Services staff.

CSC will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in April: Community Café: 383 MOW: 499
(9,724 meals were delivered to seniors during our shutdown from March 16, 2020-April 30, 2021)
- Monthly transports in April: 533
- Monthly attendance in April: 992
- Total Membership: 1,394



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

Transportation Itemization for June 2021

Item	Date	Amount	
Daily Transportation	6/4/2021	\$142.00	Total
Trips	6/4/2021	\$25.00	Total
Combined Total		\$167.00	
Year to Date Total		\$751.50	