

Commission on Aging  
August 9, 2021 – Regular Meeting  
ZOOM Meeting

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski, Roberta Avery, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Rosanne Tousignant, Alternates Nola Weston, Quinn Kozak at 8:36 am.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Secretary Gerrie Transue, Sandra Gaetano.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Mary Bylone, Board of Education Liaison Mary Tomasi, Senior Center Director Patty Watts, Board of Finance Liaison Mike Eagan.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Mlodzinski led the Commission members in the pledge.

**3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

No additions were requested.

**4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No comments were received.

**5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 12, 2021**

Minutes of the July meeting were presented for review.

**Motion by:** R. Avery

to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 meeting, as read.

**Second by:** N. Wasniewski.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve by those present.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**6.1 CoA**

Treasurer L. Pasternak reported the budget amount is \$466.26 with no changes.

**6.2 Senior Center - See attached report.**

Q. Kozak arrived at this point on the agenda.

**7. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Mlodzinski stated the third referendum for the Selectmen's Budget is scheduled for September 21, 2021. There will be an Alzheimer Association walk on September 25, 2021. Registration is from 8:30 am to 10:00 am with the two mile walk beginning at 10:30. The walk will take place at Ocean Beach Park, New London. Contact Chair Mlodzinski if interested.

November is National Family Care Month and Chris Sortwell from the Alzheimer's Association has a three part presentation that could be scheduled at that time. Chair Mlodzinski will seek further information.

BOE Mary Tomasi said school will begin on September 2, 2021.

BOF M. Eagan said the board is reviewing the budget for the third referendum. The defeated budget was a \$50 per year increase for the average homeowner.

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2021 AUG 10 AM 9:15  
Gayle Furman  
TOWN CLERK

Commission on Aging  
August 9, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Selectman Bylone will resume “open house” live talks on Zoom to FaceBook beginning August 12, at 3:30 pm. Selectman Bylone also is on FaceBook live on Sundays. There have been 15 new cases of Covid in the last two weeks. One of the cases was a vaccinated person who was sick but not hospitalized. Masks are required in town buildings. Selectman Bylone asked that the public not to use FaceBook or other social media sites for factual information. The Town website will be updated with factual information. The Federated Church will be holding vaccination clinics. M. Bylone is working on local testing sites.

**8. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT**

See attached report.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**9.1 Community-Wide Health Fair**

A meeting is scheduled for September 22 at the Senior Center to discuss the location, date, time, etc.

**9.2 Senior Center Building Committee**

An informational pamphlet has been mailed to every household. Favorable comments have been received. An additional mailing will be sent prior to the referendum. Presentations to groups such as the Lions, CBA, etc. and open house tours at the Senior Center are ongoing.

**9.3 Norton Park Committee**

N. Wasniewski stated the demolition of the adjacent house and clearing of the area is scheduled to be completed by Labor Day. The park will be done in two phases, the first phase will be the area of the original mill where picnic tables and a pavilion with informational items will be placed. The second phase will be where the house demolition is happening. The committee continues to accept donations and seek grants as no Town monies are being used to build the park.

**9.2 Commission Membership**

The Commission has a full membership at this time.

**13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No comments were received.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by:** N. Wasniewski  
to adjourn this meeting

**Second by:** R. Avery.

**Vote:** Unanimous to approve.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade  
Clerk

## Director of Senior Services Report CoA Meeting August 9, 2021

The Town budget was not passed at referendum, failing by only 4 votes. The Fire Apparatus was, however, approved. The need for a third referendum will most likely have an impact on the timing of the referendum for the proposed senior center, potentially pushing it later.

Effective, July 30, 2021, First Selectman, Mary Bylone, made an announcement that due to the new CDC recommendations, guidance from CHD, and now the newly declared Executive Order (No 13A) from Governor Lamont, that masking would be required for all persons while in Town buildings, regardless of their vaccination status. All Board and Commission meetings were also required to meet virtually, once again.

We had a COVID exposure at the Colchester Senior Center, which required us to go through contact tracing procedures for the first time since the COVID pandemic began. Fortunately, the exposure risk was very limited, but we did close the senior center on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> in order to identify how widespread the exposure might have been, work with CHD to contact trace and notify anyone who needed to be contacted and clean/disinfect the building. Staff who are set up to work from home, were able to do so that day.

We are continuing to monitor the situation to see if we need to revert to limiting in-person program attendance and reminding members of all of the COVID protocols to follow, as best practices.

The UMASS Boston Gerontology Institute with funding by Tufts has put together a new resource called the Healthy Aging Data Report, which has a lot of good data both regionally and specific to each town in CT. <https://healthyagingdatareports.org>

Day trips are selling very well with most sold out and now on waiting lists. Ruth and I are working on scheduling trips into 2022, now. We are offering a trip in September, October, November (all sold out) and December (only 4 seats remaining). Friendship Tours, one of our travel vendors, has a lot of COVID precautions including limited seats on the bus and at venues, and a health attestation form that passengers will fill out on the day of travel. We just renewed our contract to allow parking for trips in the rear parking lot of St. Andrew's Church.

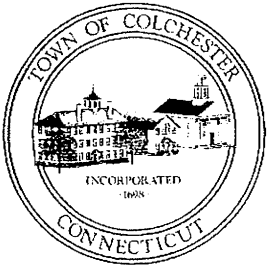
We are having several presentations for the community about the proposed new senior center, including one today at 1:30 p.m. We are providing Evening Tours for 4 Wednesday Nights, so community members may tour the current senior center and see a presentation by the Senior Center Building Committee, and have any questions they may have about the project answered.

There have been many Letters to the Editor written by citizens in favor of the proposed senior center in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

I will be giving a presentation entitled "Everything You Didn't Know About Your Senior Center" on August 19 at 1:30 p.m. I encourage any member of the CoA who has not viewed this presentation to attend.

### **Attendance & Meals Served:**

- Meals delivered in June: Community Café: 406 MOW: 533
- Monthly transports in June: 737
- Monthly attendance in June: 1,559
- Total Membership: 1,413



# *Town of Colchester, Connecticut*

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

## **Transportation Itemization for July 2021**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Daily Transportation	7/30/2021	\$0.00    Total
Trips	7/30/2021	\$0.00    Total
Combined Total		\$0.00
Year to Date Total		\$829.50