

Commission on Aging
February 15, 2022 – Special Meeting
via ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Secretary Gerrie Transue, Rosanne Tousignant, Nola Weston, Quinn Kozak, Alternate Terry Brown.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Roberta Avery.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senior Center Director Patty Watts, Board of Selectmen Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Board of Education Liaison Mary Tomasi, William Offinoski, Cathy Russi, Mary Bylone.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski called this Special Meeting to order at 8:33 am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mlodzinski led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions added as this is a Special Meeting.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Chair Mlodzinski introduced newly appointed Alternate Terry Brown and potential alternate candidate William Offinoski.

No other comments were received.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 10, 2022

Minutes of the January 10, meeting were submitted for review and approval. A correction to Item 6.1 should read, Treasurer 'Linda Pasternak' reported . .

Motion by: L. Pasternak

to approve the minutes of January 10, 2022 as corrected.

Second by: Q. Kozak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 CoA

Treasurer Linda Pasternak reported the account remains at \$416.26; the Printing and Publications Account is \$300 and the Health Fair account has \$200.

6.2 Senior Center

See attached report.

7. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Mlodzinski submitted the Biennial Report to the Board of Selectmen. The report will be on the Town website. The new budget survey is also available on the Town website where citizens may share their thoughts on the budget.

Town Planner Matt Bordeaux has requested an increase in affordable housing in Town.

The Senior Center was certified as a Community Focal Point by Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging as part of their area plan. Chair Mlodzinski said this is attributed to the high

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MAYE THOMAS
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION ON AGING

standard of senior programs.

Chair Mlodzinski received a thank you note from Nan Wasniewski for the plant she received thanking Nan for all her work in the past years.

BOE Liaison M. Tomasi reported that there was a resignation from the Board of Education and Christopher Rivers was appointed to fill that vacancy. This is budget season and the BOE will hold meetings on Tuesdays to discuss and prepare the budget that will then be presented to the Board of Finance.

M. Tomasi noted a Special BOE Meeting will be held regarding the correspondence received in reference to masking vs unmasking in the schools. Governor Lamont has left the decision to the individual superintendents.

Selectman Coyle stated the BOS approved signing the \$2.5 million grant for the Senior Center, approved allowing the Agricultural Commission to develop agri-tourism information, approved a kiosk test center at the Rec Plex parking lot that will accept insurance for payment, approved proposals for engineering services for the Sewer and Water Department and a Special BOS Meeting will be held Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

8. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

See attached report.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Senior Center Building Committee

Chair Mlodzinski said the committee will work to finalize the interior design, furniture, etc. and will be working with Ryan Acosta to follow the process and documents that will be necessary to implement this grant.

9.2 Community-Wide Health Fair

Chair Mlodzinski, N. Weston, R. Tousignant and Youth Services Director V. Geato are moving forward with the plan for the May 15, 2022 fair date.

9.3 Norton Park Committee

L. Pasternak stated the Committee's work is on hold at this time. A grant that was to help with the remediation has expired and may have to be resubmitted for approval.

9.4 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The ARPA Committee will begin meeting again on February 28, 2022. ARPA consultants are being interviewed for a position to work with the Committee.

9.5 Proposed Bylaw Change – Discussion and Vote

The following is a proposed by-law change, if approved by this committee, the change will be sent to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

**“Under Article II – Officer
Revise G to read:**

Eligibility: In order to be nominated for an office on the Commission of Aging, the nominee must be an active member of the Commission for at least one year prior to nomination. In the event there is no member willing to serve, this By-Law may be suspended by majority vote of Commission members.

Tenure of Officers: No change to verbiage but becomes H:

Officers will be elected for a term of one year. No person shall serve in the same office for more than three consecutive years.”

Motion by: G. Transue
to approve the revised by-law as presented.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Senior Center Branding Logo Design – Discussion and Vote

Senior Center Director Patty Watts presented the Commission with four proposed logo designs. Discussion followed regarding using a new logo or staying with the Town logo, what the designs were representing and the statement made.

Members “voted” on their individual preference of the four that were presented.

11. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

T. Brown has filled one vacant alternate position, leaving one more alternate position available. The member contact list will be updated and sent to members.

12. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

G. Transue would like to endorse a request by this Commission to have both zoom and in person meetings.

M. Tomasi suggested two logos be used, the Town and the Senior Center.

M. Bylone said the logo should be quickly recognized and easily digitized to be used on various items.

C. Russi endorsed the statement by G. Transue and felt the Town logo should be on the building and the proposed logo on stationery, etc.

L. Pasternak stated support for hybrid meetings via zoom and in person.

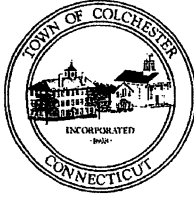
13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: G. Transue
to adjourn the meeting.
No second required.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this Special Meeting at 9:41 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

Transportation Itemization for January 2022

Item	Date	Amount	
Daily Transportation	1/31/2022	\$30.00	Total
 Trips	 1/31/2022	 \$39.00	 Total
 Combined Total		 \$69.00	
Year to Date Total		\$1179.30	

Director of Senior Services Report CoA Meeting February 14, 2022

The Senior Center was asked by the Board of Finance to assist with the Annual Budget Survey by sending it out to our members. I heard from BoF Chair, Andrea Migliaccio, that there was a nice bump in responses after we sent it out.

Likewise, the Senior Center was asked by the Town Planner, Matt Bordeaux, to send out the Housing Affordability Survey for the Planning and Zoning Commission to senior center members. We have 322 email addresses on our group email list.

I am currently working on the development of the Senior Services budget for FY 2023.

Tax appointments with AARP Tax Aide volunteers began last Friday and will run for 8 weeks, on Fridays at the senior center. This is an important community service that we offer. Open to the public. Limited availability left in April.

I met with our new Fire Chief, Steve Hoffman, and sent him the List of Residents with Special Needs that we developed in 2021. We decided that Senior Services will be responsible for keeping the list up-to-date every 6 months. My goal will be to update this list every April and October, and communicate any changes to the CHVFD.

The Colchester Senior Center was certified as a Community Focal Point by Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging, as part of their Area Plan. The certificate is displayed in our hallway.

We have sent out mailings to area physicians, physical therapy offices, and other local medical resources to let them know that we have some vacancies in our Making Memories Program. This vital, grant-funded program serves those experiencing mild/moderate memory impairment and those at risk for social isolation. It is an exceptional program and we have historically run at capacity. If you know of anyone who might benefit from this program, held at CSC on Mondays-Wednesdays, please reach out to Missy Bauman, Making Memoires Program Coordinator with a referral.

An air quality test was conducted at the current senior center on January 24, 2022 by Mystic Air Quality Consultants, Inc. The report of their findings has been sent to me, the First Selectman and Mike Previti, Public Works, who is in the process of collecting price quotes for the cleaning. We will work together to schedule any work that is required.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, a substantial donation of non-perishable food items were donated to the Colchester Food Bank.

Town offices will be closed on Monday, February 21st, in observance of Presidents' Day

We are working on a Volunteer Appreciation Event to celebrate volunteer work provided in 2019, 2020 and 2021. It will be held on Friday, April 29th. We are grateful that we can hold it this year and believe it will be a very special time.

The Jesus Christ Superstar Trip has been rescheduled to July 17th, from its advertised date of April 3rd because the Thomaston Opera House moved the dates of the show.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in December: Community Café: 361 MOW: 438 (combined 9407 YTD)
- Monthly transports in December: 704
- Monthly attendance in December: 1,764
- Total Membership: 1,486