

Commission on Aging
April 11, 2022 – Regular Meeting
Senior Center
95 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Vice Chair Roberta Avery, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Rosanne Tousignant, Nola Weston, Quinn Kozak, Gerrie Transue at 9:08 am., and Alternates Terry Brown and William Otfinoski.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Education (BOE) Liaison Mary Tomasi, Senior Services Director Patty Watts.

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 of Allegiance. Introductions were done around the table as new member alternates T. Brown and W. Otfinoski were present for their first meeting.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No changes were requested.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No citizens' comments were received.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 14, 2022

Minutes of the March 14, 2022, were submitted for review and approval.

Motion by: R. Avery
to approve the minutes of March 14, 2022, as read.

Second by: N. Weston.

Vote: Unanimous to approve by those present.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 CoA

Treasurer L. Pasternak said there were no changes to the \$416.26 balance. There is \$300 in the Town Printing and Publications budget and \$200 for the Wellness Fair.

6.2 Senior Center

See attached report.

7. CHAIR REPORT

G. Transue arrived at the beginning of this agenda item.

Chair Mlodzinski read the Mission Statement for this Commission and offered copies to members. Chair Mlodzinski noted that the new Public Safety Commission is looking for two members from the public sector to serve on the commission. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) and BOE budgets were presented to the public on April 6, 2022. Several scheduled budget workshops through the Board of Finance are open to the public. The Annual Town meeting is scheduled for May 6, the budget referendum for May 18, 2022.

M. Tomasi said the BOE workshop will be held on April 12, 2022, at 6:30 and the BOS

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2022 APR 12 AM 8:39
Marge Mlodzinski
TOWN CLERK

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workshop on April 13, 2022 ,also at 6:30 pm. This information is available on the town website. M. Tomasi noted that spring vacation begins Friday, April 15, for the following week except for Bacon Academy (BA) students. School will be in session on Good Friday for the BA students because of one day missed due to the heating oil tank situation. BA graduation is set for Friday, June 17.

R. Avery said the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will hold a ‘meet and greet’ with new Fire Chief Steve Hoffman.

8. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

Report attached.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Community-Wide Wellness Fair - May 15, 2022 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – WJJMS
Planning for the fair is well underway. The emphasis is on mental health and this Commission is working with Youth Services.

9.2 Senior Center Building Committee

The interior design is being planned, an ARPA application request has been sent for a generator that would allow the center to be used for a warming or cooling center. An optimistic date for a ground breaking is September.

9.3 Norton Park Committee

Several ‘paint a fish’ fundraisers are happening in town. Cut outs of fish made from the original mill board material will be available to paint with instruction from artist Julian Cameron.

9.4 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The Board of Selectmen set a date of April 30 as a deadline for applications. The applications are reviewed by an ARPA consultant and the ARPA committee to see that the criteria is met. If approved, the applications are sent to the BOS for further review and the BOS will decide and award the funds.

9.5 Proposed Bylaw Change to BOS 3/17/22 Meeting and 4/7/22 Meeting

The bylaw change was presented to the BOS and the proposed changes will be sent to the Town Clerk.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Printing of Resource Guides

Motion by: R. Avery

to spend up to \$300 for reprints of the Resource Guide.

Second by: G. Transue.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

10.2 2022 Programs

Suggestions for upcoming programs included elderly safety, hobbies, legal advice and many other ideas. No decision was made but will be discussed at next meeting.

11. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Chair Mlodzinski noted that the Commission Membership is complete at this time.

No other comments received.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: G. Transue
to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting April 11, 2022**

Ruth Reinwald began back on a part-time basis after her maternity leave, effective March 23rd. She has jumped right in and we are so happy to have her back. She will be back on a full-time basis on May 18th.

AARP Tax Aide had a full and busy season, holding their last appointments on April 8th. We are grateful to these volunteers who give so much of their time to hold these sessions. 173 individuals had their taxes prepared through this valuable community service.

We will be hosting 2 sessions of a fundraiser for Norton Park on April 28 at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. This will be led by Julianna Cameron (Nan W.'s daughter) a local artist with family connections to the Norton's. All proceeds will go to support the construction of Norton Park.

Counselors from Senior Resources will be here on April 19th for Benefits Eligibility Screening. They have received a grant to add this wonderful resource and Colchester was one of the municipalities selected by them to hold these events throughout the year, as well as free public education periodically throughout the year.

Rabbi Ken Alter will be joining us for an interesting new program to Learn about the Passover Seder on April 21st.

On Friday, April 29th, we will be closed operationally to host our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Personal invitations have gone out to those who have served in excess of 25 hours in the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. We are so excited to be able to recognize the significant contributions of our volunteers particularly that we can do so in person, coming out of the pandemic. We have a very special event planned.

The application for the Title III grant which supports the Making Memories Program will be submitted by the deadline of April 29th.

We were notified by the Colchester Lion's Club that they will be awarding the Making Memories Program some money at their Annual Night of Giving Event, held on April 13th.

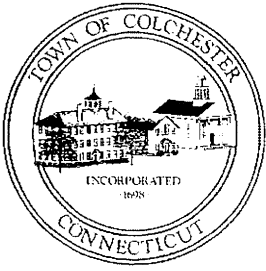
A new part-time position for increased Medical Transportation has been included in the proposed budget, to address the need for the increased demand we've seen over the past 4 years.

Thank you for your support and input regarding the new CSC logo. At the March 17th BoS meeting, it was decided that they wanted to open the contest up to other segments of the community. There is now a community-wide contest for the creation of a new logo for CSC. There will be a cash prize of \$500 given to the first-prize winner, selected by the BoS. (No tax dollars will be used for this purpose.) Entries will be received until May 6th.

CSC and Town offices will be closed on Friday, April 15th for the Good Friday holiday.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in February: Community Café: 327 MOW: 422
- Monthly transports in January: 630
- Monthly attendance in January: 1,624
- Total Membership: 1,499



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

Transportation Itemization for March 2022

Item	Date	Amount
Daily Transportation	3/07/2022	\$306.00
	3/31/2022	<u>\$60.00</u>
		\$366.00 Total

Trips	3/07/2022	\$41.00
	3/31/2022	<u>\$57.00</u>
		\$98.00 Total

Combined Total	\$464.00
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Year to Date Total	\$1643.30
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