

Commission on Aging
December 12, 2022 – Regular Meeting
Senior Center
95 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Nola Weston, Vice Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Corresponding Secretary Gerrie Transue, Roberta Avery, Alternates William Otfinoski; Alternate Terry Brown at 8:58 am.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rosanne Tousignant, Quinn Kozak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senior Services Director Patty Watts; Board of Education Liaison Mary Tomasi, Board of Finance Liaison Art Shilosky, Cathy Russi.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nola Weston called this meeting to order at 8:30 am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Weston led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Motion by: G. Transue
to add Citizens' Comments after Item 10.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve by those present.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

C. Russi said the members of the Senior Center and this commission are advocates for the new Senior Center.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2022, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND NOVEMBER 28, 2022, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.

Item 9.2, Senior Center Building Committee Report of the November 14, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes should read, "M. Mlodzinski noted that the low bid . . ."

Motion by: R. Avery
to approve the November 14, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve by those present.

November 28, 2022, Special Minutes had the incorrect year – should be 2022, not 2023.

Motion by: M. Mlodzinski
to approve November 28, 2022, Special Meeting as amended.

Second by: R. Avery.

Vote: Unanimous to approve by those present.

T. Brown joined the meeting at this point in the agenda.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 CoA

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2022 DEC 13 AM 8:40
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

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L. Pasternak reported the new budget figures - \$416.26 in the donations account, \$350 in Health Fair (\$150 seminars, training and \$200 for the Health Fair), \$1100 in Printing (includes the audit printing).

6.2 Senior Center
Report attached.

7. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Weston stated she would like to see educational programs for 2023 and discussion followed.

8. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

Report attached. A correction was made in the report today that the trip to see lights in Goodwin Park was changed to a trip to Rentschler Field.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Senior Center Building Committee

The Building Committee met on December 1, 2022. A lawsuit has been filed regarding the financial aspect of the bid amount going over the approved amount. There is a meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm on December 13, 2022, by Zoom, to receive an update.

9.2 Norton Park

L. Pasternak said the committee will know about the disposition of the grant within the next two weeks.

9.3 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

M. Mlodzinski said the committee is in the process of reviewing the applications with the various department heads to receive their input on the requested projects.

9.4 AARP

R. Avery said the AARP recently had lunch at Papa Z's with 39 members.

9.5 Education Sub Committee- survey dates

The survey is to seek input for educational programs to offer to the community. The survey will be sent out through Survey Monkey after January 1, 2023. Two weeks will be given for responses, hard copies will be made available at Town Hall, the Senior Center and Cragin Library.

9.6 2023 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for 2023 was approved at the November 28, 2022, meeting and has been filed with the Town Clerk.

9.7 CSC Strategic Plan Update

Director Watts said a meeting to update the strategic plan will be held next week and when completed it will go before the Board of Selectmen for approval.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Education Plans for 2023

Chair Weston mentioned plans for education in 2023.

G. Transue spoke about an educational program regarding long term Covid and spoke of isolation people felt during the pandemic.

P. Watts said there will be a program in January through the Alzheimer's Association.

10. A CITIZENS' COMMENTS

C. Russi noted that events like the Senior Christmas Fair and other possible ways to receive donations will be very important. C. Russi also noted that at one time a contact person at each of the senior housing areas would get the word out, a personal outreach.

M. Tomasi said the new school superintendent will start after January 1.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: M. Mlodzinski
to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: R. Avery.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Weston adjourned this meeting at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting December 12, 2022**

Open Enrollment for Medicare ended on December 7th, and any plan changes will take effect beginning January 1, 2023. Thanks to Senior Resources, we had two very busy Open Enrollment Events. 36 people were served.

The Budget Referendum held on November 15th passed.

The New Senior Center Project is stalled awaiting the outcome of a Court Hearing scheduled for December 20th. Two citizens filed an injunction against the Town to prohibit Town leaders from utilizing any additional resources over the approved \$9.5 million approved at referendum, such as the Bendas' Bequest. Citizens (many of whom were seniors) spoke out in frustration during Citizens Comments at the well-attended BoS Meeting on December 1st, upon learning that the project has been halted.

CSC donated a 4' tree to the Wadsworth Annual Trees and Tradition Festival. This display has not been held in several years due to the pandemic. Jodi Savage, Program Coordinator and talented crafters worked to fabricate all of the decorations in a theme which honors Colchester's history of poultry farming. The exhibit will be running from December 2-12.

We have a fun variety of seasonal activities, meals and outings this month: Holiday Lights Trip to Goodwin Park, Cocoa & Carols Sing-Along, Cookie Decorating with YAC, Hanukkah Celebration with Rabbi Alter, Holly Daze Luncheon, New Year's Brunch 'n Bash, Make, Take & Give Crafting Series, Card Writing Session, Gingerbread House Edible Craft & more!

This year, we no longer have volunteers to provide free snow removal services. If anyone knows of any affordable and reputable companies or individuals, I'm working to put together a resource list for both plowing for driveways and snow blowing/shoveling for walkways, stoops, etc.

We are supporting a Poinsettia Sale to support the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Plants can be purchased for \$15 through our office and will be available for pickup on December 20-23rd.

We are once again partnering with JJIS for the Annual Holiday Box Program. This year 25 seniors will receive gifts and cards from a classroom, delivered to their door. Boxes will be delivered on 12/23. We will not be bus transportation that day, to enable staff to deliver boxes before our early closure that day.

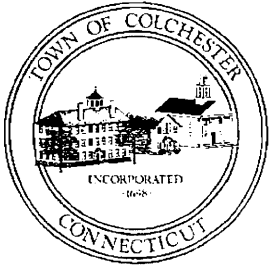
We are running a Season of Giving Food Drive during the months of December and January to benefit the Colchester Food Bank.

Senior volunteers will be assisting Santa's Anonymous in Town by assembling holiday stockings filled with treats which will be delivered to children throughout the community.

CSC Holiday Schedule is as follows: closing at 12 noon on December 23 and December 30, closed on December 26 for Christmas Holiday (observed) and January 2 for New Year's Day Holiday (observed)

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in October: Community Café: 359 MOW: 535
- Monthly transports in October: 752
- Monthly attendance in October: 2,274
- Total Membership: 1,639



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

Transportation Itemization for November 2022

Item	Date	Amount
Daily Transportation	10/29/2022	\$90.00 Total
 Trips	 10/29/2022	 \$32.00 Total
 Combined Total		 \$122.00
Year to Date Total		\$1275.00