

Commission on Aging
January 9, 2023 – Regular Meeting
Town Hall - 127 Norwich Avenue
Hybrid/Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: , Vice Chair Marjorie Mlodzinski, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Corresponding Secretary Gerrie Transue, Rosanne Tousignant, Roberta Avery, Alternates William Otfinoski and Terry Brown.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Nola Weston, Quinn Kozak.

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos, Board of Selectman (BOS) Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Board of Finance (BOS) Liaison Art Shilosky, Senior Services Director Patty Watts, Cathy Russi.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Marge Mlodzinski called this Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 am.
Alternate T. Brown was seated as a voting member for this meeting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Mlodzinski led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

R. Avery requested the addition of AARP Report.

Motion by: A. Avery

to add the AARP report as Item 9.7.

Second by: R. Tousignant.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Cathy Russi offered to help the Senior Center with creative and appropriate fundraising for future needs.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the December 12, 2022, meeting were submitted for review and approval. Item 9.4 to read "AARP".

Motion by: G. Transue

to approve the minutes as amended.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 CoA

Treasurer L. Pasternak reported \$416.26 in Donations, \$350 in Health Fair- (\$150 for Training and Seminars, \$200 for Health Fair), Printing and Publications - \$300.

6.2 Senior Center

See attached report.

7. CHAIR REPORT

7.1 Liaison Reports

Vice Chair Mlodzinski said there will be Covid clinic on January 30, 2023, from 9am-2pm at Town Hall. It is a free clinic, no reservations necessary.

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Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

Chair Nola Weston received a call from Eric Rosenberg about reinstituting the round table meetings of area commissions on aging.

BoF Liaison Art Shilosky noted that the recent decision by the court for the new Senior Center was good news and there is a long way to go but he is here to help with direction from the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Coyle said this first step allows the project to move ahead. There is no negotiating during a bid process per state law. The bid will be awarded and then negotiations and changes may be discussed.

First Selectman Bisbikos said the Town won on each count of the suit and the contract will be signed this week and agreed with Selectman Coyle that there will be challenges but working together will get the job done. A. Bisbikos thanked R. Coyle, A. Shilosky and T. Tarnowski and those who supported the center.

8. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR CENTER REPORT

See attached report.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Senior Center Building Committee

The Board of Selectmen should award the bid to BRD Builder this week in the amount of \$8,625,000. No further report at this time.

9.2 Norton Park

L. Pasternak stated the Brownfield Grant was not awarded to Norton Park and thanked First Selectman Bisbikos and Selectman Coyle for retaining Consultant Jay Gigliotti to continue with this project. Planner Damien Sarratino, J. Gigliotti and First Selectman Bisbikos will be meeting for a grant discussion. The meetings will continue on the first Tuesday of the month at the Senior Center.

9.3 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

M. Mlodzinski said ARPA members continue to discuss the community survey and schedule department heads to discuss applications. ARPA meets at 5:00 pm via zoom. ARPA and the BOS have a joint meeting at 5:30 via zoom. The goal is to make recommendations for approval in March.

9.4 Education Sub Committees - Survey dates

P. Watts said the survey has gone out to members, is available in paper form at the Town Hall, Cragin Library and the Senior Center. The deadline for responses is January 14, 2023.

9.5 – no item – typing error.

9.6 CSC Strategic Plan Update

P. Watts has held meetings to discuss goals and objectives. The plan should be presented to the Board of Selectmen soon.

L. Pasternak said she would like to see “Friends of the Senior Center” established as a 401 C3 organization for fundraising, etc. Discussion followed on fundraising and donations to the Senior Center.

9.7 American Association for Retired Persons (AARP)

R. Avery reported that the December luncheon went well with 39 members and 20 guests.
The next meeting is March 7, 2023, at the Senior Center.

10. NEW BUSINESS

L. Pasternak would like to see an email address for the Commission and to add a Social hour at the Senior Center to get to know each other. R. Avery would like to have a meeting with the new school superintendent. These items will be on the February agenda.

11. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

C. Russi said she would like to see an education class at the Senior Center for CPR (cardiac-pulmonary resuscitation).

Questions were asked in reference to donations and a discussion followed.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: R. Avery
to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Vice Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting January 9, 2023**

On Friday, December 30th, the Honorable Karen A. Goodrow ruled on the Court Hearing of 12/28 & 29, and the Injunction was denied, meaning that the Town of Colchester can proceed in awarding the bid to BRD Builders, LLC, the apparent low bidders on the project.

25 senior residents were recipients of the Holiday Box Project, an annual collaboration with JJIS. Because the school as well as Town offices were closed on 12/23 due to a wind/rain event with power outages, followed by the school's winter break, we were delayed this year but were delivered on 1/4/23. JJIS rescheduled its Town Hall Meeting to 1/5/23, so I attended to thank the students and staff for their generosity and let them know how grateful the recipients were to receive their Holiday Boxes.

In addition to the Holiday Boxes, thanks to the generosity of Colchester Cares, each recipient also received a \$40 grocery gift card. It is heartwarming to see how the community partners with us to help serve its seniors.

Later this month, with the senior center project back on track, the BoS will be discussing the Senior Center Logo Contest. This had been on hold for several months as issues of budget referendum, etc. were more critical. It is good to have this contest back in focus, and we look forward to announcing a winner soon.

Colchester Senior Center has been selected for a Desk Audit for the Section 5310 program, with requested items due by 1/13/23. I will be submitting those items in time, and the CTDOT will schedule an appointment for the audit. Our records are always in good shape, and I anticipate no problems.

National Health Care is sponsoring a free Lunch and Learn on the topic of Mental Health Self Care. This program will be held on January 20th.

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year with a cater luncheon by Po's Rice & Spice in East Hampton.

Our Bingo players will also have a free catered luncheon. These happen twice per year and are paid for through a Bingo Players' Fund provided by their weekly 50/50 drawings.

Our Site Server, Valerie Webster, is expecting to become a grandmother this month. We congratulate her, her daughter and the Webster family on the arrival of this blessed bundle.

The Season of Giving Food Drive continues through the end of January to benefit the Colchester Food Bank. There are collection boxes in the CSC Dining Room.

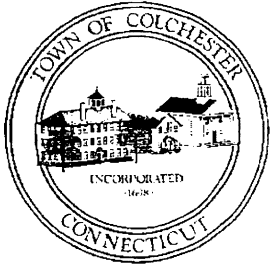
Inclement weather postings can be found on WSFB Channel 3 (on TV or online) and also on the CSC Facebook site.

We have begun to schedule appointments for AARP Tax Aide Services.

The Colchester Senior Center will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in November: Community Café: 350 MOW: 642
- Monthly transports in November: 784
- Monthly attendance in November: 2,233
- Total Membership: 1,636



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

Transportation Itemization for December 2022

| Item | Date | Amount |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Daily Transportation | 12/31/2022 | \$0.00 Total |
| Trips | 12/31/2022 | \$0.00 Total |
| Combined Total | | \$0.00 |
| Year to Date Total | | \$1275.00 |