

Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting - May 8, 2023
Senior Center - 98 Norwich Avenue

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Quinn Kozak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectman (BOS) Selectman Rosemary Coyle, Senior Services Director Patty Watts.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nola Weston called this Regular Meeting to order at 9:02 am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Weston led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were requested.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No citizens' comments were received.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 10, 2-23, MEETING MINUTES

Motion by: R. Avery

to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023, meeting as read.

Second by: G. Transue.

Vote: Abstaining: M. Mlodzinski (absent from meeting).

In favor: All others present. Approved.

6. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Weston noted that Quinn Kozak has not sent in a resignation letter to date. The new Senior Center Groundbreaking Ceremony went very well, the entertainment by the "Senior Serenaders" was well done.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

7.1 CoA

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

7.2 Senior Center

See attached report.

8. DIRECTOR of SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

See attached report.

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Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

9. LIAISON REPORTS

- 9.1 Board of Education - No report
- 9.2 Board of Finance - No report
- 9.3 Board of Selectmen

Selectman Coyle said even with the request for an additional appropriation of \$1.5M, the construction of the new senior center will not increase the debt service or mill rate in any year.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Senior Center Building Committee

M. Mlodzinski said clearing and filling are ongoing at the site. A meeting will be held tomorrow (Tuesday, May 9) to address a change order to deal with the drainage issues on the site.

10.2 Norton Park

L. Pasternak said Norton Park was given \$500 from the Lions' Club' Night of Giving for a sign. Consultant Mike Raber prepared a document to meet the State Historical Preservation Office requirements to submit a grant. Norton Park also received ARPA monies that will help with a grant to continue with the remediation.

10.3 AARP

R. Avery said the installation of officers for AARP will be June 6, 2023, at Pappa Z's Restaurant at 12:30 pm.

10.4 Education Sub-Committee - Vendor Fair

T. Brown said she has commitments from vendors for the fair to be held at Craigin Library. R. Avery and T. Brown are working on the flyer and obtaining supplies.

10.5 Resource Guide Revisions Update

The Resource Guide will need to be updated. Discussion followed regarding the timing to get it done for the fair. There is a lot of organizing and proof reading for the guide.

Motion by: R. Tousignant

to use the remaining current Resource Guide for the fair.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Nominating Committee

The members of the Nominating Committee present candidates for the election of officers that will be held at the June meeting. Bill Otfinoski, Rosanne Tousignant and Marge Mlodzinski volunteered to meet as the Nominating Committee and present a slate of officers to members in June.

11.2 Meeting Location

Discussion followed about continuing to meet at Town Hall with the hybrid/zoom system. It was noted that being able to be at the meeting through zoom is convenient for members who travel and also allows citizens easier access.

12. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comments were received.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: M. Mlodzinski
to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: R. Tousignant.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Weston adjourned this meeting at 10:06 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting May 8, 2023**

The long-awaited Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on Friday, April 21st during a beautiful spring day. It was well-attended with people flowing into the hallways of Town Hall. A special shout out to our Senior Serenaders who prepared and performed a special musical number for the occasion. It was a meaningful morning for so many people and a sign of a bright future for Senior Services in Colchester.

Friday, April 28th we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to honor our volunteers who served 25 or more hours in 2022. We had 59 people in attendance to celebrate 3,671.5 cumulative hours of service in numerous categories. Every minute spent volunteering improves our organization.

The Title III grant application was submitted to Senior Resources for \$19,000 for renewal funding to support the Making Memories Program.

May is the celebration of Older Americans Month, and the theme this year is "Aging Unbound." We've put together a special contest with 8 different Aging Unbound programs throughout the month and an Aging Unbound Passport in the office to pick up and have endorsed for each of the 8 programs attended.

CSC will be closed on 5/12 for an issue with Eversource where we will not have electricity in the building for one business day. All programs have been rescheduled and members who were registered have been notified.

On 5/15 at 10 a.m. we will hold the Coffee with the Commission on Aging Program, as an opportunity for the CoA members and mission of the Commission to be better known.

TVCCA's Community Café Lunch will be shut down on May 19th for their Annual Staff Appreciation Day. So we can offer a lunch, we are planning an Angelo's Stuffed Bread Lunch that day.

On May 4th we held a special education session led by PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) to discuss the important subject of Understanding Your Utilities.

Colchester Lions Club awarded the Making Memories Program \$1,000 in funding at their Annual Night of Community Giving last month.

I am working on a grant application for \$32,691 for Colchester's share of ARPA funding for senior centers throughout CT, which can be used towards the cost of an aspect of the new senior center related to Covid protection. An example of an eligible expense would be the new HVAC system or an outdoor patio for future outdoor programming.

CSC and all town offices will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance for Memorial Day.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in March: Community Café: 426 MOW: 573
- Monthly transports in March: 823
- Monthly attendance in March: 2,659
- Total Membership: 1,690