

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marge Mlodzinski, Vice Chair Nola Weston, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Rosanne Tousignant, Roberta Avery, Terry Brown, Alternates Bonnie Trecarten, William Otfinoski.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Corresponding Secretary Gerrie Transue.

OTHERS PRESENT: Senior Director Patty Watts, Board of Selectman Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Board of Finance Liaison Scott Chapman, Board of Education Liaison Chris Rivers.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marge Mlodzinski called this Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mlodzinski led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Due to the absence of a voting member Chair Mlodzinski requested a motion to seat Alternate Bill Otfinoski.

Motion by: N. Weston

to seat B. Otfinoski as a voting member for this meeting.

Second by: T. Brown.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comments were received.

5. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8, 2024, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the January 8, 2023, meeting were submitted for approval.

Motion by: N. Weston

to approve the January 8, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes, as read.

Second by: M. Mlodzinski.

Vote: Abstaining: B. Trecarten, T. Brown (absent from meeting).

In favor: All others present. Approved.

6. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 22, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion by: R. Tousignant

to approve the January 22, 2024, Special Meeting minutes as read.

Second by: T. Brown.

Vote: Abstaining: R. Avery (absent from meeting).

In favor: All others present. Approved.

7. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Mlodzinski noted the resource guide will need to be updated with the new board liaisons. The First Selectman has formed new committees to review the available space for facilities as they pertain to police, park and recreation, youth center, food bank, the third floor of Town Hall and possibly the water and sewer department. Committee applications are online.

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2024 FEB 14 AM 9:57
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

The Community Theatre will present the “Kinky Boots” play on February 16 and 17 at Bacon Academy.

The BOS changed the naming of the fields policy and a new petition will be necessary to obtain 100 signatures to name one of the athletic fields for Norm Kaplan. The petition will be submitted to the BOS to be scheduled as a public vote in November.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

8.1 CoA – see attached report.

8.2 Senior Center

Chair Mlodzinski noted that no changes occurred since last month and the budget remains at \$448.26 in Donations, \$300 in Publications, and \$200 in Health Fair.

9. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

See attached.

10. LIAISON REPORT

10.a Board of Selectmen

Selectman Coyle noted the BOS will have two new committees to review facilities needs with Park & Recreation, Police Department, Youth Center and the Food Bank.

10.b Board of Finance- S. Chapman noted the BOF will have an aggressive schedule, dates of workshops and meetings are on the website, still pulling together information.

10.c Board of Education – C. Rivers said BOE budget dates are also on the website, a magnet school program is being looked into, no info has been received from the State Education Department, there will be a public forum when the information is received. The budget will be presented to the Board of Education on 2/27/24.

11. OLD BUSINESS

11.a Senior Center Building Committee

Chair Mlodzinski said the builders are making progress and the building should be closed in by the end of February. The inside work should move along quickly.

11.b Norton Park

A revised plan has been drawn and bids are out for the engineering of the north portion of the park.

11.c UR Community Cares - Discussion and Going Forward?

B. Otfinoski met with the First Selectman and a concern for the longevity and the sustainability of this project was discussed. B. Otfinoski will contact other towns that have the program and report back at a later date.

12. PROGRAM FOR 2024

12.a Attorney George Baker - February 27, 2024 - 10:00 a.m. This program is confirmed.

12.b Senior Center Staff - April - Crafts —- July - Ice Cream

The April Craft project has yet to be determined. The July Ice Cream Program will be finalized at a later date.

12.c Alzheimer's Association - Esther Pearl - Healthy Mind & Body - Date?

This program is a possibility for September. Available dates will be reviewed.

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.1 Biennial 2022-2023 CoA Report -

Chair Mlodzinski prepared an annual report. The following additions were requested to be added to the report for community activity by members: serving in Colchester's Veterans Honor Guard, officer in AARP, Westchester Cemetery Association for sponsoring a national program - Wreaths Across America; tax aide preparations for residents and monitoring at election polling places.

Motion by: T. Brown to adopt the report from M. Mlodzinski with additions and to send the report to the BOS for approval.

Second by: N. Weston.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comments received.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: T. Brown
to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: R. Avery.

Vote: Unanimous to adjourn.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 9:50

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting February, 2024**

I am working on the development of the CSC budget for FY 2025. This FY will represent the first operational budget in the new building. I am using figures as furnished by the SCBC in anticipation of a fall 2024 opening.

Attached, please find the YE Report for the Department of Senior Services. We had record high statistics in a number of categories this year: attendance (30,800), information and referrals (10,225), miles traveled transporting members (26,845), and meals served/delivered (12,044).

AARP Tax Aide appointments are all filled for the season. We are referring any inquiries to other towns which we know have availability.

I have completed and submitted the List of Residents with Special Needs List to Fire/Police/EMS for this year. A press release, email blast from the FS, and personal follow up calls to those on the list were made.

The Across the Ages collaboration with WJJMS is off to a great start this year, with senior volunteers going into the classroom to partner with students in a wonderful intergenerational collaboration.

CSC is partnering with Colchester's CORE Commission to promote the Town-Wide Black History Book Discussion.

This month we rolled out new program registration procedures, in an effort to make the process fairer for all members. We've received mostly positive feedback on this change.

The Making Memories Program is at full capacity again, after losing many participants throughout the pandemic. We have our Site Audit scheduled with Senior Resources (our funder) on March 6th.

Throughout the month of February, we have a focus on heart health. We will be selling paper hears for \$1.00, and all proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association.

FS Bernie Dennler has decided to move ahead with the new senior center logo contest and will be reviewing the submissions with board members at an upcoming BoS meeting.

An application was submitted for \$1,000 in funding for the Making Memories Program from the Colchester Lions' Club for their Annual Night of Giving.

Update of PT Medical Driver: one application came in, but she since withdrew from consideration. No other applications have been received.

CSC will be closed on Monday, February 19th in accordance with the Town Holiday schedule.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in December: Community Café: 387 MOW: 705
- Monthly transports in December: 811
- Monthly attendance in December: 2,539
- Total Membership: 1,770

**Town of Colchester
FY 2024-2025
Budget Proposal**

Department: Senior Services

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Colchester Senior Services Department to support older adults by providing programs and services designed to promote their independence, health, wellness and overall quality of life.

Vision Statement

The Colchester Senior Center is a community resource dedicated to engaging, enriching and empowering seniors.

Staffing

Director (full time)
Program Coordinator (full time)
Administrative Assistant (full time)
Administrative Support (Per Diem)
Bus Driver (2) (1 full time, 1 full time, grant funded)
Bus Driver (2) (part time)
Making Memories Program Coordinator (part-time, grant funded)
Nutrition Site Server (contracted with TVCCA)

2023-2024 Accomplishments

- Realized historic growth across most service lines: membership, program attendance, program sessions offered, transportation services and mileage, information and referral services, volunteer hours served and meals served/delivered. (see outcome measures chart)
- Approval of new Medical Driver position through budget process for additional resources to meet the increased demand for services.
- Assisted in planning/participation of the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Colchester Senior Center at 15 Louis Lane in April, 2023.
- Assisted in public education which resulted in a passed referendum (by over 75% of vote) for an additional appropriation of \$1.5 million to adequately fund the completion the new Senior Center.
- In collaboration with the Strategic Planning Team, completed a revised and BoS approved Strategic Plan for the Department of Senior Services, 2023-2027
- Created a Senior Benefits Counselor (volunteer position) to assist members with SNAP, Renters Rebate, Energy Assistance and other beneficial programs.
- Secured grant awards totaling \$94,965; including CTDOT Municipal Grant Program for medical transportation, Title III funding for the Making Memories Program, ARPA Funding for the new Senior Center's HVAC system and NCOA's Vaccine Uptake Initiative Funding.
- Secured donations in the amount of \$21,500.77.
- Director attended bi-monthly Senior Center Building Committee Meetings, in an advisory capacity.
- Director participated in monthly Commission on Aging committee meetings.
- Director participated virtually and in-person in CASC (professional organization) meetings and trainings.

Measures (January 1 – December 31)

	2023	2022	2021
Membership Totals	1,770	1,640	1,470
Unduplicated Annual Count	826	781	653
Total Clients Served (duplicated)	30,800	25,617	17,387
Total Programs Sessions Offered	1,821	1,694	1,311
Transportation, non-medical (total # of rides)	7,034	6,547	5,867
Transportation, medical (total # of rides)	2,329	2,610	2,124
Transportation mileage for In-Town Transportation	26,845	25,185	22,913
Information and Referrals	10,225	10,211	9,643
Making Memories Program (total units of service)	2,266	2,436	2984.5
Volunteer Hours (total hours)	4,592.5	3,671.5	2,172
Senior Center sponsored Travel Opportunities (attendees)	348	356	107
Meals-on-Wheels Deliveries	7,815	6,324	5,718
Meals Served Onsite (Community Café/Specials)	4,229	4,420	3,689

2024-2025 Objectives

- Continue to meet the needs of the senior population through innovative programs and efficient, professional services.
- Procure new 14-passenger wheelchair lift-equipped bus to replace the oldest in our fleet through approved Section 5310 grant with CTDOT. Due to procurement delays, funding opportunities through the Section 5310 Program were suspended in 2021-2023.
- Evaluate need to increase resources for additional In-Town Transportation Services, create a plan for the future in cooperation with the First Selectman.
- Continue working with the Senior Center Building Committee throughout the building construction and for a smooth transition into the new senior center, anticipated in August 2024.
- Grow Senior Services into the potential that a having a new, larger and fully-equipped facility will allow.
- Explore expansion of Town revenues through the rental of the “Event Space” (Multipurpose Room/Kitchen), and assist the Board of Selectmen in the creation of policies for event rentals.

[illegible]



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

Transportation Itemization for January 2024

Item	Date	Amount
Daily Transportation	1/31/2023	\$141.00 Total
 Trips	 1/31/2023	 \$111.00 Total
 Combined Total		 \$252.00
 Year to Date Total		 \$1407.00