

Commission on Aging
April 8, 2024 – Regular Meeting
Town Hall – Room 1

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marge Mlodzinski, Treasurer Linda Pasternak, Corresponding Secretary Gerrie Transue, Roberta Avery, Rosanne Tousignant, Terry Brown, Alternates Bill Otfinoski and Bonnie Trecarten.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Nola Weston.

OTHERS PRESENT: Director of Seniors Services Patty Watts, Board of Selectman Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Senior Services Medical Driver Linda Martin.

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. SEATING OF ALTERNATES

No alternates were seated.

4. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions were requested.

5. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comments were received.

6. APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2023, SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes of the March 11, 2023, Special Meeting were presented for approval. It was noted that the date for the Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body program is "May" 13, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

Motion by: T. Brown

to accept the minutes as amended above.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve as amended.

7. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Mlodzinski noted that the BOS appointed a seven member committee with two alternates to the new Recreation Needs Committee and stated elections for this commission take place in June. A nominating committee will present a slate of officers to be voted on at the June meeting. Some seats up for election have limits for continuous service. The nominating committee will be chosen in May to present the slate in June.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

8.1 CoA

L. Pasternak 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. A \$25 check will be issued to the Senior Center in memory of Former Senior Director Cathy Russi.

8.2 Senior Center

Report attached.

9. DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT

Report attached.

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2024 APR -9 PM 4:19
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

Director Watts said that Program Coordinator Jodi Savage's sister Kimberly Perkoski passed away earlier this month.

Motion by: G. Transue

to send a check for \$25 to be donated as indicated in the obituary.

Second by: L. Pasternak.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

10. LIAISON REPORTS

10.1 Board of Selectmen – Rosemary Coyle

R. Coyle noted that the fiscal year 22-24 audit has not been completed to date.

Several grant applications have been approved, new members have been approved for the new recreation study and other committees.

10.2 Board of Finance – Scott Chapman – no report

10.3 Board of Education – Chris Rivers – no report

11. PROGRAMS FOR 2024

11.1 Senior Staff Craft - 4/10/24 - 3:00-4:00

A paint the pot and mini bulb planting program has been planned for the staff. All supplies have been purchased.

11.2 Mary Lou Gannotti, Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body - 5/13/24

This program will be held at the Senior Center and an article will be in The Rivereast regarding this program.

11.3 Health/Wellness Fair

Discussion followed regarding the Fair and the theme and possibly moving the fair to a Saturday. This item will be on the next meeting agenda to further discuss and determine if a fair will be held this year.

Motion by: G. Transue

to request that the BOS move the Health Fair monies to the printing and publications line item if the fair is not held this year.

Second by: R. Tousignant.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

11.4 July, Ice Cream Social (date)

A tentative date for the Ice Cream Social will be July 8, 2024, at 1:00 at the Senior Center. Director Watts will confirm the date.

11.5 Thanksgiving Dinner 11/25/24

November 18, 2024, was discussed as the date but will be need to be confirmed.

12. OLD BUSINESS

12.1 UR Community Cares

B. Otfinoski reported on the UR program and discussion followed. This is a new program to help those in need with volunteers providing services such as rides, cleaning, shopping, etc. The funds required for this program are only for the background checks for those participating. R. Coyle suggested presenting this program to the BOS. No decision was made at this time.

12.2 Senior Center Building Committee

Chair Mlodzinski said the roof is on the building, windows are in and the walls and rough electrical have been started.

P. Watts met with the interior designer for the design of each room. At this time, the furnishings are below budget. All furnishing quotes are within purchasing guidelines.

12.3 Norton Park

L. Pasternak reported that things are moving along with a revised plan and two grants that have been received to get the work started. The Norton Park Committee will hold a special meeting to discuss the details that will be addressed as the Park begins to take shape.

12.4 Printing/Publications - Approval of \$298.20 for Resource Guide
\$2.10 each for 142 copies

There are some minor changes that will be necessary prior to printing.

Motion by: R. Avery

to approve spending \$298.20 for printing of the Resource Guide.

Second by: T. Brown.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Linda Martin was introduced as the new medical driver for the Senior Center.

14. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comments were received.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: R. Avery

to adjourn this meeting.

Chair Mlodzinski adjourned this meeting at 10:19 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

**Director of Senior Services Report
CoA Meeting April 8, 2024**

I'm happy to report that we have hired a new part-time Medical Driver, Linda Martin, who is starting today.

The application for the CTDOT's Section 5310 program grant for a new wheelchair lift equipped passenger van has been submitted for \$66,744. The Town's cost share is \$16,686.

I have also submitted an application for a Title IIIB grant for \$20,000 in renewal funding for the Making Memories Program.

I am in the process of writing a multi-year grant for Medical Transportation for \$34,261 per year for FY 2025-2028 through the Municipal Grant Program with the CTDOT. This is due in May.

The CSC staff were able to do a walk-through of the new building after our staff meeting last month. It was very exciting to see it taking form and how spacious the activity rooms will be. What a wonderful asset this will be for Colchester.

We have been invited to attend the Colchester Lions' Club annual Night of Giving. I had submitted an application for \$1,000 in funding for the Making Memories Program. They have been very generous to the program in the past, for which we are deeply grateful.

The Renters' Rebate season has begun as of April 1st. Those who meet the eligibility requirements can apply between now and October 1st. Checks will go out at the end of October.

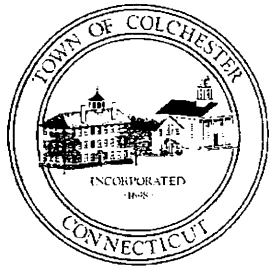
Some programs which may be of interest to you include:

- Financial Savings for Seniors on April 10 at 10:30 a.m.
- Medicare Bootcamp on April 11 from 5-7 p.m.
- Senior Golf League Pre-Season Meeting on April 16 at 2 p.m.
- Live Your Best Life Now on April 24 at 10:30 a.m.

We will be closed operationally so we can hold our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on Friday, April 26th, beginning at 10:30 a.m. as our way of thanking the many people who give so generously of their time and talents. Any who have served 25 or more hours in 2023 will have received an invitation by mail, including everyone in the CoA. Please RSVP to Susan to let us know if you can join us.

Attendance & Meals Served:

- Meals delivered in February: Community Café: 387 MOW: 796
- Monthly transports in February: 880
- Monthly attendance in February: 3,012
- Total Membership: 1,831



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

95 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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

Transportation Itemization for March 2024

Item	Date	Amount
Daily Transportation	3/27/2024	\$444.00 Total
 Trips	 3/27/2024	 \$95.00 Total
 Combined Total		 \$539.00
Year to Date Total		\$2186.00