

Long-Term Recovery Committee
December 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting
Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Matt Bordeaux, Greg Barden, Charlie Brown, Marjorie Mlodzinski, Jack Faski, Dave Koji at 5:15 pm.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chuck Maynard, Michelle Noehren.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Liaison Rosemary Coyle, Director of Senior Services Patti Watts.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bordeaux called this Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions or deletions requested.

3. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No comments received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the December 2, 2020, meeting were presented for approval.

Motion by: G. Barden

to accept the minutes of December 2, 2020, as read.

Second by: J. Faski.

Vote: Abstaining: C. Maynard (absent from meeting).

In favor: All others present. Approved.

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5. DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES

D. Koji arrived during this discussion.

Director Patti Watts explained how the Senior Center operated from the shut down in March to the present. At the time the most immediate needs were meal delivery, transportation for medical appointments, groceries and banking. There are seven employees at the Senior Center and they divided the list of seniors to make check in calls each week. Email blasts and later a weekly robo calls were added. Seventy-three percent of seniors have access to technology.

All trips for 2020 were cancelled. Staff worked at home on a rotating basis. The tax preparation help was suspended. Director Watts provided help navigating the IRS website, and helping set up zoom for members. Virtual exercise classes were held, bingo was offered by way of conference calls. Download printouts of games, coloring pages, etc. were also offered.

A survey was sent out with 185 replies. Ninety-eight percent of respondents were satisfied with the center's response to the pandemic situation.

A "picnic" was held in St Andrew's parking lot with seniors in their cars. One outdoor program a month was planned. A program called "Bloomers to Zoomers gave one on one help with technology.

The Holiday Fair was cancelled. A statewide Holiday Blast was scheduled through Connecticut

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Association of Senior Personnel (CASP) with a registration limit of 1200. A prize was given to Colchester for the most participants.

P. Watts stated she is very proud of her staff, they rose to the challenge. One of the challenges is that it is difficult to tell how someone is doing over the phone. At this time, the wellness check phone calls are falling behind because of the increase in services.

Discussion followed with the possibility of volunteers to help, getting the word out to join the Senior Center. There is no fee to join for Colchester residents and activities are open to those 55 years old and up. It was suggested that an online registration process might be helpful. Other suggestions were to write a first person article for the newspaper, contact *Colchester is Kind* for volunteers and include information in the First Selectman's weekly email blast.

6. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

No comments received.

7. ADJOURN

Motion by: J. Faski
to adjourn the meeting.

Second by: M. Mlodzinski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Bordeaux adjourned this meeting at 6:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade