

**TOWN OF ENFIELD**  
**Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes for Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

**Present:** David Goyette, Chairperson; Alice Egan, Vice-Chairperson; William St. George, Secretary; Marlene Hoginski; Muriel Capocci; Howard Florian; Judy Kilty; Bill Kiner, Town Council Liaison; Jennifer Switalski, MSW - DSS Social Worker, Staff Liaison.

**Absent:** Michael Arnone, Jr; Kathleen Tallarita; Timothy Slade, Treasurer; Pat Linehan; Lori Unghire, Town Council Liaison.

**Guests:** none.

**I. Welcome**

David Goyette, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

**II. Secretary's Report**

Will St George reported. A motion to accept the minutes, as presented, made by Marlene Hoginski and seconded by Howard Florian passed. - (5-0-2).

**III. Treasurer's Report**

David Goyette reported in Tim Slade's absence. A motion to accept the report, as presented, made by Marlene Hoginski and seconded by Will St George passed – (7-0-0).

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. Senior Minor Home Repair Program (Helps Seniors Stay In Their Homes)**

David Goyette reported in Tim Slade's absence. Program Season - *{see Commission on Aging Calendar.}* Building and Grounds did all the work of moving the tools and supplies from the old storage space into the new storage space at the annex. This was an unexpected surprise. David Goyette stated his thanks to Building and Grounds staff for taking care of the move as well as for all their other work, guidance and assistance in making the new space possible. He also thanked the Council Liaisons, Bill Kiner and Lori Unghire for their efforts in making the new storage possible.

The SMHR volunteers are working on organizing the tools and supplies in the new space. The two new volunteers have picked up the program ID at the police station and are ready to join in on the work. There are about six to eight job requests taken already.

**A1. COVID-19:** At this point discussion regarding the corona virus began with a question about whether or not the SMHR work should begin on schedule. Chairman David Goyette stated the decision for SMHR will wait to follow the town's lead via the town manager. Commissioners discussed the potential impact on various volunteer efforts, including Meals-on-Wheels, and various Commission projects, including SLTV and our yearly Symposium scheduled for April. For Meals-on-Wheels, Howard Florian reported on CRT guidance received to date. Some discussion occurred about the postponement or cancellation of the Symposium.

**B. Symposium (An Annual Topic-Focused Discussion between Senior Service Providers)**

**{8th Annual Symposium: "Let's Start Talking – Mental Health and Seniors"**

**April 28, 2020**

*{see Commission on Aging Calendar}*

David Goyette reported for Pat Linehan. The four speakers are in place. Jennifer Switalski praised the success of the plan for one speaker to present a 'personal story' around a Symposium topic.

**C. Isolated Seniors (Symposium Focus Group) (Friendly Caller Program in Development)**

David Goyette reported. The third pilot test of the program will begin in the near future. A meeting is set for this coming Monday with Kathy Souvigny. The committee has been considering what the needs of the volunteer call-receivers might be at the end of each 12-week cycle. David and Jennifer Switalski agreed that having DSS touch-base with each volunteer call-receiver at the end of a cycle is a good idea.

Jennifer stated she would find out if her department can do it. Jennifer stated that DSS will be including in their grant writing work a portion for this program.

**D. TV Show - "Senior Living - SLTV" (Symposium Focus Group)**

Senior Media Project - (Public information about aging and living as an older American)

David Goyette reported for Pat Linehan. He described the most current show, which was taped yesterday -Mike Helechu played host to the new Director of Social Services, Cynthia Guerreri. Bill Kiner asked about the airing schedule.

Watch "Senior Living" - SLTV

To watch episodes of Senior Living online either (A) go to [www.patv15.com](http://www.patv15.com) Enfield/Programming Schedule, put Senior Living in the search and click on any program to begin watching or (B) go to <http://patv15.com/index.php>, click on "Enfield" then "Enfield Programming Schedule" then "see entire schedule", find a day with Senior Living listed and click on Senior Living.

Or watch Thursdays at 6:30pm or Fridays at 9:30 am on Cox Public Access, channel 15.

**E. Transportation Survey (Symposium Focus Group)**

(A Survey of Enfield Resident Demographics, Transportation Usage & Attitudes)

Will St George reported. Further work on this project awaits the return of Annette Orlandi from vacation.

**F. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (A Support Network for Parenting Grandchildren Due to Death, Addiction, or Other Circumstances)**

Jennifer Switalski reported. The topic of summer camperships was discussed. Discussion covered the need for, funding of, and benefits to the children and grandparents. Pandemic concerns were voiced under IV. A-1.

**G. Triad (A National, State, and Town Program of Senior Safety)**

Marlene Hoginski reported. She reported on a successful outreach at the Enfield Home Show. Sharing a display table with the Senior Center worked out well. The committee is thinking the outreach with the file-of-life at the Fireman's Picnic has 'run its course' for now. They are discussing the possibility of another safety expo.

**H. Blue Book (A Resource Book of Essential Services for Seniors)**

Alice Egan, Vice-Chairperson reported on the tremendous amount of work done by the committee and Cynthia Guerreri and other DSS staff. David Goyette stated the next step is reviewing a printed proof copy by the printer – minor changes to be made if needed. Shortly thereafter at least 9,000 booklets will be printed. Booklet distribution was discussed briefly. Will St George suggested each Commissioner/Liaison bring a list of distribution points to the next meeting.

**I. (A Holiday Gift Program for Nursing Home Residents without Social Connections)**

Nursing Home Project {Seasonal}

**J. CHOICES (A Federal Program - SHIP - State Health Insurance assistance Program)**

(State certified counselors educate and assist citizens with Medicare and related insurance.)

Will St George reported. He pointed out material in the written report on the final month of Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment and the report on Medicare direct source or linked material on Corona Virus insurance coverage, preventive measures and informative resources. Also included with the report were educational CDC flyers on preventative measures at home, at work, at school, and at a business. Will discussed the difficulties in performing the duties of a CHOICES counselor with the provided technology. Liaison Bill Kiner stated he would communicate with the town manager and get back to Will.

**V-1. Regular Reports and Topics**

**A. DSS Report Covered under V-2. A.**

## **V-2. Old Business**

### **A. Grants**

Jennifer Switalski reported. She said Enfield has been applying for and receiving NCAAA grants for over three years. DSS is committed to continuing these grants. Many of the grants are related as they address 'at-risk' adults and seniors. She listed these comparable programs: Isolated Senior Outreach, Isolated Senior Friendly Caller, Senior Minor Home Repair, and the Warming Center. She updated the Commission with the progress on the plan to submit a combined grant document. A public hearing on the grant(s) is to be held on Monday. The department is hiring an "Elder Care Coordinator." Towns are required to designate an "Elder Care Coordinator" So the position fulfills that requirement; however, the reason for the position is the specific needs, services, and programs dealing with older adults are quite distinct from those for adults, children, and families. Town Council has approved the position.

### **B. Senior Groups**

#### **i. Senior Center Advisory Board**

Alice Egan reported. The Friends of the Senior Center gave a report on the purposes and activities. Also, Marlene Hoginski reported on the collaboration but from the perspective of the "Friends." Both Alice and Marlene stated the groups learned a lot from each other and felt it will be helpful going forward. Alice described the Advisory Board process. Senior Center Manager, Shelia Grady updates the board on current activities, plans, etc. The board apprises Shelia of the ideas they have produced. These ideas are vetted through discussion. Alice stated, once an idea is adopted, Shelia is very good at implementing those ideas. Alice supplied the example of the new activity 'chair volleyball', which was well received by center attendees.

#### **ii. Friends of the Senior Center**

Marlene Hoginski reported. The "town council meeting" play with senior volunteers as actors is still looking for more players. The Friends are supporting and enhancing the event by providing a meal catered by the Polish deli. Marlene stated the level of donations has dropped significantly since policy changes in promotion and public awareness. The Front & Center used to publish a regular piece about the group and listing donors and the honoring or memorial purpose of the donation. The donation envelopes used to be out in-plain-sight to register with passing center attendees.

### **C. Senior Center Focus**

No update this month.

## **VI. New Business**

**VIII. Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn made by Judy Kilty and seconded by Will St George passed (7-0-0). David Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:14pm. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 18, 2020 at 2pm at the Enfield Senior Center

Inclusion(s):

- (1) Commission on Aging Calendar (1 page, single sided)
- (2) Commission on Aging Choices Report, March 2020 (2 pages, double sided)
- (3) Flyer: "Enfield CHOICES Medicare Minute – Take Preventive Action Now Against COVID-19 (1 page, single sided)
- (4) CDC COVID-19 Public Safety Flyers (2 pages, double sided)

Respectfully Submitted by Will St George, Secretary

Cc: Christopher W. Bromson, Town Manager, Bill Kiner, Council Liaison, Lori Unghire, Council Liaison, Jennifer Switalski, MSW - DSS Social Worker, Staff Liaison, Cindy Guerreri, Director, Department of Social Services, Shelia Grady, Senior Center Manager, Mary Keller, Deputy Director of Recreation Services, Marguerite DuPrey, 'Commissioner Emeritus', 32 Woodside Park, Enfield, CT. 06082.

## Commission on Aging Calendar

March 11, 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time(s)</u>	<u>(Action)/Location</u>	<u>Project/Event/Group</u>
Thursdays	6:30pm	Cox Public Access Chanel 15	Watch SLTV – “Senior Living”
Fridays	9:30am	{ See IV.-D. for online viewing instructions. }	
*03/16/2020	6:00pm	Cox Studios	Sandy Zukowski Retirement Diner
*03/17/2020	12:30pm	Senior Center	<u>SLTV – Committee meeting</u> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays)
03/20/2020		NCAAA / DSS	Grant writing deadline
*03/31/2020		Invitation- Mail-out	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium
*03/31/2020		Start of Home visits	<u>Senior Repair Program</u>
*04/01-29/20	1 to 2:00pm	Enfield Central Library	“Healthy Brain” Series: Wed. April: 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> . Register 860-763-7511
*04/08/2020	2:00pm	Senior Center	Commission on Aging Meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays)
*04/28/2020	8am to 12pm	Asnuntuck College	<u>8<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium</u>
			“Let’s Start Talking – Mental Health and Seniors”
*05/13/2020	2:00pm	Senior Center	Commission on Aging Meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays)
*06/26/2020	2pm & 6pm 5pm	Senior Center Senior Center	Stage Production with Town Residents Pre-show Dinner
07/11/2020			National Volunteer Day
10/31/2020	(tentative)	End of Home visits	<u>Senior Repair Program</u>

\* - This meeting/event may be cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic.

TOWN OF ENFIELD			
COMMISSION ON AGING			
2020 FINANCIAL REPORT	Mar-20		
2020 ALLOCATION \$11,425			
PROGRAM INVESTMENT	FY20 Starting Balance	FY20 Expenditures & Transfers	YTD BALANCE
SMHRP	\$2,500.00	\$924.11	\$1,575.89
SYMPOSIUM	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
ISOLATED SENIORS	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
NURSING HOME CHRISTMAS	\$500.00	\$471.84	\$28.16
TRANSPORTATION SURVEY	\$200.00		\$200.00
MISSIONS & OUTREACH	\$625.00	\$149.99	\$475.01
GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN	\$250.00		\$250.00
SENIOR LIVING	\$50.00		\$50.00
TRIAD	\$800.00		\$800.00
BLUE BOOK	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00
TOTAL	\$11,425.00	\$1,545.94	\$9,879.06
DESCRIPTION	PREVIOUS MONTH BALANCE	MONTHLY DEPOSIT	YTD
Donations	\$7,417.73		\$7,417.73
PREPARED BY: MELISSA NEWMAN-TORRES			
SMHRP Expenses - March	Amount		
HOME DEPOT	\$23.82		
Vernon Graphics	\$140.73		
Amazon	\$12.74		
TOTAL	\$177.29		
SIMPOSIUM Expenses - March	Amount		
TOTAL	\$0.00		
ISOLATED SENIORS Expenses -March	Amount		

TOTAL	\$0.00		
NH CHRISTMAS Expenses -March	Amount		
TOTAL	\$0.00		
TRANSPORTATION SURVEY Expenses - March	Amount		
TOTAL	\$0.00		
MISSIONS & OUTREACH Expenses-March	Amount		
	\$0.00		
TOTAL	\$0.00		
GRANDPARENTS/GRANCHILDREN Expenses -March	Amount		
TOTAL	\$0.00		
SENIOR LIVING Expenses - March	Amount		
TOTAL	\$0.00		
TRIAD Expenses - March	Amount		
TOTAL	\$0.00		
BLUE BOOK Expenses - March	Amount		
TOTAL	\$0.00		