

**TOWN OF ENFIELD  
COMMISSION ON AGING  
Teleconference Public Meeting  
Minutes for Wednesday, July 8, 2020**

**Present:** David Goyette, Chairperson; Alice Egan, Vice-Chairperson; William St. George, Secretary; Muriel Capocci; Marlene Hoginski; Kathleen Tallarita; Timothy Slade, Treasurer; Judy Kilty; Jennifer Switalski, MSW - DSS Social Worker, Staff Liaison; Lori Unghire, Town Council Liaison.

**Absent:** Michael Arnone, Jr; Howard Florian; Pat Linehan; Bill Kiner, Town Council Liaison.

**Guests:** Cindy Guerreri

**I. Welcome**

David Goyette, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

**II. Secretary's Report**

An outline of the June 10 minutes was briefly discussed - commissioners to comment on post meeting. Both the June 10 and the July 8 minutes will be presented for approval at the next meeting. Melissa continues to do excellent work with the minutes.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

David Goyette stated the 2020 - 2021 budget amount and asked for a motion for approval. A motion to approve the \$11,425 budget made by Judy Kilty and seconded by Alice Egan was approved by consensus. A motion to accept the final Treasurer's Report for fiscal year 2019 - 2020, as presented, passed (8, 0, 0).

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. Repair Program**

Tim stated the tentative program start date was pushed to August 4, 2020 based on the town's current Covid measures. Both Judy Kilty and Tim Slade stated that it is still not safe to proceed with the program. Two of the volunteers are not participating this year. Dave stated all the volunteers and clients are vulnerable. Tim stated and Dave agreed that if the August 4 start date is not realized then the program should be closed for the year. Lori Unghire suggested the program could go forward doing outdoor jobs. Tim said the change would be difficult to communicate. It would be confusing and perhaps frustrating to clients and difficult for staff to manage. Tim stated Melissa did an excellent job explaining and working with A/C installation clients; most have gotten others to install their A/C. Dave stated He and Tim could meet separately to a decision and report back. The suggestion was approved by consensus.

**B. Symposium**

No Report.

**C. Isolated Senior**

Dave stated the volunteer coordinator Carolyn Schultz has resigned and DSS plans to fill the position with a volunteer. The essential delay in the program is Covid related - the calling volunteers are required to take a six week in-person training.

#### **D. Senior Media Project**

Senior Living TV Show -The Cox Public Access Studio is still closed due to Covid. Show production using video conferencing technology is to be discussed.

#### **E. Transportation Survey**

No report

#### **F. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Kay Tallarita stated they have completed a new brochure. The program is proceeding with video technology. One meeting is for the Grandparents only. The second is for the children. They are beginning to work on summer camp for the children. Kay thanked Heather and Amy for their work on the program and DSS and the town for their support.

#### **G. TRIAD**

Marlene stated the group is not meeting. Starting meetings again depends on the Senior Center opening. It is requested that Eileen McDonald be added to the TRIAD email list.

#### **H. Blue Book**

Dave discussed distribution in detail. Thirty five out of fifty boxes have been assigned for distribution this year. The assignment of the thirty-five was determined to be: Senior Center 10; Dave 7; Alice 4; Marlene 4; Tim 1; Muriel 1; Kay 2; Pat 1; Judy 1; Howard 1; Mike 1; and Jenn 2. Will stated that 15 boxes is an appropriate reserve for next year and beyond. Cindy Guerreri stated that an electronic version on the website could possibly be updated once a year. The reserve will be stored at DSS. Shelia Grady stated that 110 books have already been distributed by the Senior Center drive-thru event. Dave congratulated the committee and thanked them for 'a good product' that is getting 'good feedback'.

#### **I. CHOICES**

Will stated that he and Jennifer Switalski will complete the Certification training with the last class session tomorrow followed by a certification exam. Jenn stated the CHOICES training is 'essential' to serving town seniors - the extensive training subjects cover 'anything Medicare', including related insurances. She gave some examples.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **A. Grants**

Feedback from the NCAAA on the March 2020 grant applications is expected early next fiscal year.

#### **B & C. Senior Groups**

Both the SC Advisory Board and the Friends of the Senior Center have not been meeting.

### **VI. New Business**

#### **A. DSS Report**

The new social work position job description was approved by council and will be posted next week. The position is focused on 'adult and community services.' One responsibility, the shelter diversion program, will be a priority. This will help the police with some frequently occurring

situations. Cindy stated the interdepartmental collaboration with Chief Fox has been excellent and will carry into the future.

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. Fiscal Budget 2020-2021**

The August meeting agenda will consist of: A. the fiscal year budget. B. other situations, as necessary. Dave asked and Cindy and Jenn agreed to provide town rules and regulations regarding budget and budget procedures. Dave provided an outline, based on the prior year starting budget, as a starting point for discussion next time. Outline: Home Repair 3,000; Symposium 1,500; Isolated Seniors 1,000; Nursing Home 1,000; Survey 500; Grandparents 500; Triad 1,000; Choices 1,500; Mission and Outreach 1,000. A motion to allocate \$1,000 of next fiscal year budget to the Senior Minor Home Repair, made by Kay Tallarita and seconded by Marlene Hoginski, passed (8, 0, 0).

## **VIII. Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn made by Judy Kilty and seconded by Tim Slade, passed (8-0-0). David Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:35pm. The Commission thanks Cindy Guerreri for setting up and hosting our public teleconference meeting.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 2pm – Dave will investigate available space for a possible Covid compliant in-person meeting.

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.

Cc: (one time only) Police Chief A. Fox