

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino; David Goyette; Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Priscilla Linehan, Tim Slade and Will St. George.

Absent (Excused): Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison; Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison; and Kay Tallarita.

Guests: Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison; and Mary Keller, Senior Center Manager.

I. Welcome

David Goyette, Chairman, opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. He introduced walk-in guest, Junior Miller an Occupational Therapist who works with the elderly, who would like an insight into what the Commission on Aging does. Dave thanked Cindy Guerreri for arranging for the use of the DSS conference room for our meeting today and for future meetings. Cindy reminded everyone that masks must be worn in school buildings so anyone entering the DSS area must be masked because of its proximity to the Family Resource Center

II. Secretary's Report:

Dave Goyette asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Will St. George asked for a correction of the number of voting members referenced in the January minutes. He mentioned that Liaison members should not be included in the voting numbers. A correction will be made to record 11 voting members. Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction noted and Will St. George seconded the motion. The motion passed (08,0,03).

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade commented that a correction has been made to SMHP problem previously noted and that the figure for donations has been verified. With the requested corrections made, Will St. George made a motion to accept the report as presented and Mary Ann Harris seconded. The motion passed (08,03,0).

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade provided an overview of the program for Junior Miller and reported that he is continuing with the inventory of tools and supplies and has made some necessary purchases in January. The 2022 SMHR program will begin on April 5th and continue on every Tuesday, except those following an observed Monday holiday, until November. Information about the start of the program is being sent to Mary Keller at the Senior Center, to a contact at Town Hall and to Melissa for dissemination to the media. So far 3 volunteers are planning to return to help with the program. Volunteers will be wearing masks while completing requests. Appointments will begin to be scheduled on March 14th. Pat Linehan commented that this program has a wonderful reputation and Cindy Guerreri concurred that there has been approval for the work performed through the satisfaction surveys from clients.

B. Symposium

Dave Goyette explained the goals of this program to Junior Miller. Pat Linehan commented that although she will be stepping down as chairperson, she has assurances that the program will continue. To this end, Pat will be meeting with volunteers on March 9th at 1:00 p.m. to begin the planning. She also commented that Bill Kiner would like to be included with the volunteer group.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Dave Goyette provided a short history of this program to Junior Miller. Pat Linehan reported that volunteers will be meeting on February 15th at 1:00 p.m. to do future program planning. Tim Slade said after contacting previous volunteers, everyone said they will be back as soon as the COX studio is open. For February, Mary Ann Harris, the AARP Tax-Aide/Vita site coordinator, will be discussing tax preparation for seniors. For March, there is a possibility of interviewing Dr. Meaghan McCusker about the dermatology needs of seniors.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In Kay Tallarita's absence Dave Goyette explained the program to Junior Miller. He noted that staff from the Enfield Family Resource Center run the program with assistance from the Commission. Virtual meetings continue with one scheduled for February 7th. One new grandparent raising a nine-year-old grandson has recently joined. Staff continue to provide family grief support and have been reaching out to those with transportation needs.

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski explained the goals of the Triad program to Junior Miller. She noted that this nation-wide program teaches seniors how to be safe. The group meets monthly; the next meeting to be held on March 8th.

F. Choices

Will St. George explained the Choices program to Junior Miller. He reported that beginning on Fridays in February he will be providing Choices information to interested seniors over 60 at the Senior Center and will be floating on other days. Since the DSS Elderly Services Care Coordinator has resigned her position, Will has assumed responsibility for about 50% of the social services clients she used to counsel regarding Choices. Will stated that it would be helpful to obtain an additional monitor for the current set-up at the Senior Center and that after an assessment it would be helpful to have the use of a dedicated telephone as well. After discussion, Mary Ann Harris made a motion for the Commission to purchase an additional monitor and cable for use in the Choices program and a cell phone as well. Marlene Hoginski seconded the motion and with all in favor, the motion was approved. Dave Goyette asked Cindy Guerreri to do a purchase requisition for a 12-month purchase of a phone similar to Tim Slade's for a cost of \$10.98 per month and for the purchase of an HDMI Monitor and cable (monitor type to be researched by the Commission). The cost of these items will be allocated to the Missions and Outreach account. Will also mentioned that he would be interested attending the dual eligibility training being conducted for Medicaid/Medicare eligible clients. He mentioned that he would be submitting additional information about this training.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Cindy Guerreri reported that move to the new space is going well. Resumes for the Elderly Services Care Coordinator position have begun to be received and will be reviewed. An application will be made to NCAA in the middle of the month as the Enfield Cares umbrella. One effort this year is to continue to become gatekeepers with community members to locate and build a target group of isolated seniors as we apply for the grant.

B. Senior Groups

i. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski explained the purpose of this group to Junior Miller. She reported that next month meetings will resume and that Mary Keller, manager of the Senior Center, is preparing a "Wish List" for the Friends group to be considered when they meet in March.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller gave a review of the mission and activities at the Senior Center for Junior Miller. She noted that several COVID clinics will be held on Fridays until March 18th by the Griffin Hospital mobile van staff. Mary mentioned that with the mask mandate lifted as of February 7th additional programming can be made. The Tax-Aide program began on February 7th through April 15th. In April new programming for fitness classes, trips, dances and concerts are under consideration.

VI. New Business

COA Initiatives for 2022Community Builder

Dave Goyette asked if there has been any thought about what new initiatives the Commission could be pursuing in 2022. Listed below are some of the suggestions:

- a) Survey of Technology for Seniors – Will St. George
- b) Expansion of the Grandparents Program – Mike Arnone
- c) Help in the Winter Months with Snow Removal – Dave Goyette
- d) Research Dementia Friendly Community – Mike Arnone
- e) Care Givers Program – Mike Arnone
- f) Build Community at Large: more than 1 on 1 with more eyes and ears on the ground – Cindy Guerreri
- g) Livable Community Bulletin (show what COA does) – Will St. George.

VII. Announcements

Cindy Guerreri mentioned that the United Way is working with Trinity of New England (Hospital) in a community assessment with focus groups; one of four being a Senior Focus Group, to present data about community needs.

Tim Slade commented that as we are in the digital age, the COA should consider a method of digitizing COA data and a way of storing it for preservation and ease of access. He mentioned COA job descriptions, guidelines, etc. He asked if the town has a “G” drive where committee data can be safely stored, but also be public accessible. Cindy briefly spoke about Sharepoint and offered to research what might be available through the town.

Dave Goyette mentioned that we received a “thank you” letter from the Little Sisters of the Poor for gifts received during the Holiday Project.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Will St. George and seconded by Tim Slade. It passed unanimously. Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Cc:

Ellen Zappo, Acting Town Manager

Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison

Cindy Guerreri, Staff Liaison & Director of Social Services

Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager

Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison