

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Pauline Devino; Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Priscilla Linehan, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison; Tim Slade and Will St. George.

Absent (Excused): Mike Arnone Jr., Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison; Alice Egan; Mary Keller, Senior Center Manager; Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator and Kay Tallarita.

Guest: Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison

I. Welcome

David Goyette opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

II. Secretary's Report:

Dave Goyette asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; with none needed and the amendments to the minutes accepted, Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept and Tim Slade seconded the motion. The motion passed (08,0,0).

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade commented that there are no corrections to the financial report, but that some recent purchases have not as yet been reflected. Will St. George made a motion to accept the report as presented, and Howard Florian seconded. The motion passed (08,0,0).

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade reported that as of May 10th, 43 residences have been visited entailing 72 tasks, but two requests for gutter cleaning had to be rescheduled due to rain. There are a total of 8 volunteers who perform the work and the crew continues to work out of the storage facility at the Enfield Annex. All completed jobs are referred to Justin Lopez. The schedule is full through July 12, 2022. Tim acknowledged that outstanding scheduling and miscellaneous support continues to be received from Melissa Torres-Newman and Erin Tynan of DSS. Dave Goyette read a letter of appreciation regarding the program and asked Tim if any more money is needed to complete requests for this fiscal year. Tim confirmed that no additional money is needed. He noted that the main work focus has been on repair and replacement of items such as faucets and light bulbs, but that more requests for air conditioner installations will be forthcoming.

B. Symposium

Pat Linehan reported that the committee has decided to present the topic of mental health in older adults which had been fully prepared prior to COVID. She indicated that the committee is considering an October date. Using the Asnuntuck facilities is desirable; Pat noted that she will submit to them a date of October 18th or October 20th. There will also be consideration of using Zoom or the town's Titans system in the event that the presentation needs to be virtual. In June, a Save the Date mailing will be made. Howard Florian indicated that he will be speaking with Cindy Guerreri about catering since Asnuntuck no longer provides a catering service. It is anticipated that a continental breakfast will be served and 3 or 4 speakers will break out into action groups.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Pat Linehan reported that the program regarding Tax Aide is continuing to show. Justin Lopez was to be interviewed for the next show, however, that was cancelled. In its place, a representative from All American Assisted Living will be interviewed regarding their facilities including Adult Day Care. There was discussion about whether a presentation from this elderly care business could indicate endorsement. Dave Goyette

indicated that he feels Dr. Martha McLeod is astute enough about any conflict with COX and COA policy. He also indicated that Martha should be alerted to our concerns. What was concluded is that we don't have to show the program once recorded if it is felt that it seems to imply endorsement.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In Kay Tallarita's absence, Dave Goyette reported that home visits and outreach to grandparents continues. After reviewing the budget for outstanding funds, there was discussion about if there were any items that are needed for this program this budget year. Cindy Guerreri offered to contact Heather Benyak regarding any needs and Tim Slade suggested that before the next meeting it be determined what is needed. The commissioners agreed to fund any identified items with the remaining budget. As a post script, via an email on May 17th Dave Goyette asked for a vote to transfer money from the Isolated Senior budget to the Grandparents budget to fund summer activities which were identified by DSS. Nine commissioners voted in favor of the motion by Howard Florian and seconded by Mike Arnone to transfer \$1,000 from the Isolated Senior budget to the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren budget. Dave Goyette will ask Melissa to complete that transfer and notify Amy Morales and Heather Benyak of this vote.

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski explained that tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the Enfield Senior Center, UCONN Health will be making a presentation concerning the Connecticut Poison Control Center. Files of Life and Important town phone number magnets will be distributed along with safety sheets and Blue Books. Friends of the Senior Center will be providing refreshments. Marlene indicated that for the Policemen's Picnic on June 3rd at noon, Enfield seniors can get their picnic tickets at the police station by presenting proof of Enfield residence. Entertainment will be provided. At the picnic, Triad members will be offering safety sheets, Blue Books and File of Life/Phone Number magnets. Any COA member who wishes to participate should arrive by 11:00 a.m. Marie Pyznar offered to make an announcement about the Picnic at the next Town Council meeting.

F. Choices

Prior to Will St. George's report, Dave Goyette commented that he is appreciative to Will's for his efforts in keeping this program going. Will reported that he is continuing the five appointment schedule, three Friday morning, and two Monday evening. A majority of clients recently are either at or near age 65, or 64 and doing advanced planning. Client eligibility is screened for the Medicare Savings Program (which pays Part B and Part D premium and lowers pharmacy costs). Clients are also screened for other programs and referred to Enfield Social Services. Will stated that one Friday morning a client needed timely services and Justin Lopez, Elderly Services Coordinator, was able to meet with them that day. Justin has been great to work with and Cindy Guerreri, Director, ESS has been very supportive of cooperation between ESS and his CHOICES work. Will announced the NCOA Annual Aging & Action online conference will be June 6th through June 8th. Anyone can sign up for these events by going to the NCOA website and signing up for an account with an email and a password. Will said he will report any information obtained related to the October Symposium topic. He stated that during the 2022 Annual Enrollment Period (October 15 - December 7) he wants to provide 'walk-in' events, one for help with prescription drug plans, and one for help with Advantage plans. For this to work, it needs vetted helpers to assist clients with preliminary online work. Feasibility and planning will be explored.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Cindy Guerreri reported that all positions are filled except for a Site Manager at Mark Twain who will be overseeing the daily program. This 16 hour position will need Serve Safe certification and will track numbers for CRT. She also mentioned that the landscape for the Housing Authority has been changing with authorization of anyone 60+ who has a physical disability. The NCAAA isolation, virtual interview questions the level of need for isolated seniors. National and State data is being used for making best guess. NCAAA has been funding the Enfield Cares program for years, but we now need to determine how to sustain this funding with the

town absorbing some costs if needed. The Gatekeeper program is getting more expensive so we need to just sustain what funding is needed for the Isolated Senior program with data using Enfield percentages.

B. Senior Groups

A. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that refreshments for tonight's Poison Control presentation is being provided by the Friends group. The group's next meeting will be tomorrow where they will be discussing requested purchases of new gym equipment, cornhole games for tournaments, a bocce ball court and subsidizing some costs for the \$42,000 sound system (being requested through the town budget).

B. Senior Center Focus

In Mary Keller's absence, Marlene Hoginski reported that the Senior Center will holding its first indoor concert since the COVID outbreak. The Dukes of Hazardville will be performing. In addition, bus trips are resuming and have been popular.

Mary Ann Harris, AARP Tax-Aide Coordinator reported that a lot of seniors have to pay this year since it seems enough funds are not being withheld. She indicated that families need education on how to better understand tax policies. She directed Howard Florian or Mary Keller to perhaps enlist a CPA who can be interviewed on Senior Living and explain tax policies.

VI. New Business

- A. Dave Goyette reviewed the remaining COA budget for the 2021-2022 Year; there is about \$5,000 left. He asked if any items need to be ordered before June 30th. Marlene Hoginski requested more vaccine sleeves and File of Life magnets to be distributed at the Policemen's Picnic. When ordered in February, 2,000 vaccine sleeves cost \$.36 each for a total of \$760 and 1,000 Files of Life magnets cost \$1,300. Mary Ann Harris made a motion to order \$800 of vaccine sleeves from the Mission and Outreach account and transfer it to the Triad account; Howard Florian seconded and everyone approved. Marlene made a motion to transfer \$1,300 from the Symposium account to the Triad account to purchase File of Life magnets. Mary Ann seconded the motion and everyone approved.
- B. Health and Wellness Workgroup – Will St. George reported that departments are focusing on priorities in town. There is lots of data for the 11-17 age group, but no data on seniors and on early childhood depression and anxiety. Howard Florian commented that the presenters were competent and well prepared, but there is concern for the lack of data on seniors. Cindy commented that any data collected is being compiled by DSS. Tim asked if there has been any progress on developing a repository for COA information. Cindy commented that Justin is exploring options.

VII. Announcements

Marie Pyznar announced that she and Cindy Mangini from the Town Council will be holding a non-denominational moment of reflection for Ukraine on the Town Green on Sunday, May 22nd from 1-3 p.m. with local spiritual leaders officiating. All residents are invited to attend and create a Ukrainian flag in support. She also mentioned that residents should check their town vehicle bills since there have been some assessment issues in this evaluation year due to the fact that older vehicles are more valuable. Marie noted that this is a "heads up" and costs will be dependent on the new budget mill rate and State tax abatement initiatives, but that residents also have a mechanism for disputing any increases.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Will St. George and seconded by Mary Ann Harris. It passed unanimously. Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Cc:

Ellen Zappo, 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