

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan; Howard Florian, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison; Dave Goyette, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Priscilla Linehan, Tim Slade and Will St. George.

Absent (Excused): Kay Tallarita and Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison.

Guests: Mary Keller, Senior Center Manager and Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator.

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 Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept and Alice Egan seconded the motion. The motion passed (07,0,3) Mary Ann Harris, Howard Florian and Will St. George abstained since they were not present at the previous meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the fiscal year end treasurer's report. He noted that in reviewing there was a discrepancy of \$250 in the reporting of donations since 2013 which has been added to the final total of \$9,287.73. Mary Keller asked what is done with the donations. Tim and Dave Goyette commented that thought had been given to buying equipment like a trailer for the repair program, however, the issues of ownership, insurance and liability make these purchases difficult. Tim mentioned that he would like to learn how to get access to money from the donations. Cindy Guerreri commented that she would check with John Wilcox of Finance, but may also have to go to the Town Council to request funds. She will get back to the Commission with what procedures are required. In reviewing the year end budget balance, Tim reported that the Commission is ending the year with a surplus of \$1,397.70 of the \$11,425 approved. He also mentioned that he is working with Melissa Torres-Newman of Social Services to add a transfer column to the monthly financial report for better reporting.

For the budget year 2022-2023, the following programs will be funded in these amounts for a total of \$11,425: SMHRP - \$3,000 Symposium - \$2,000 Nursing Home Christmas - \$1,000 Missions & Outreach- \$2,500 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - \$1,000 Senior Living - \$500 Triad - \$1,000 Choices - \$425. Choices is a new account and the Isolated Seniors account has been eliminated. With no further discussion, Dave Goyette asked for a motion to establish the 2022-2023 budget as proposed: Will St. George made a motion and Mary Ann Harris seconded. All approved through a show of hands.

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade reported that as of June 7th, 64 residences have been visited with a total of 148 tasks completed by 8 volunteers (with one request completed by Telecom). All completed jobs are referred to Justin Lopez for follow up. The schedule is full through July 26, 2022 with only 4 others scheduled until September. There are no big backlogs of requests as in years past, however, there has been a big push for gutter cleanings. Tim acknowledged that outstanding scheduling and miscellaneous support continues to be received from Melissa Torres-Newman of DSS.

B. Symposium

Pat Linehan reported that she is in the process of contacting speakers for this year's symposium entitled Senior Mental Health and its Impact on the Community. The symposium will be held on October 20th from 9 a.m. to noon. A contract has been signed with Asnuntuck for the facility and a caterer from out of state hired to set up and breakdown. She acknowledged that Bill Kiner has been so helpful in contracting a caterer and with other tasks. A Save the Date postcard will be mailed upon the receipt of an updated mailing list that Mike Arnone is helping to compile from the K drive. The next meeting of the Symposium committee will be on July 20th at 10:00 a.m.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Pat Linehan reported that starting on July 19th, and for every Tuesday until September, taping will resume based on the availability of each guest, not according to the broadcast date. There is a list of guests available for 5 Tuesday dates, then it will be decided when it is best to air each interview. Guests who have agreed to interview are: Kay Tallarita on the Grandparents program, Mark Warnoc on Public TV, Mayor Bob Cressotti on Working with the Community and Dave Goyette and Bill Kiner on the upcoming Symposium. It was suggested that Will St. George discuss the CHOICES program, but he said that he would prefer to defer to his "boss" who is a media specialist for CHOICES; Will can provide Pat with contact information. Mazie Shannon of All American Assisted Living will be interviewed next Tuesday. Dr. Andrew Epstein of Northern Eye Care has expressed an interest in participating.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In Kay Tallarita's absence, Dave Goyette reported that a thank you note and worksheet of expenses for the Commission's \$1,000 donation has been received with many notations being for expenses to Sonny's Place.

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski explained that the Triad committee met yesterday to discuss the organizing of a Safety Day in early October consisting of fire, police, EMS and other speakers. Topics of interest will include: senior scams, poison control and lock box options, and fall prevention. Triad representatives will be distributing literature during this Safety presentation along with 200 free thermometers. Will St. George also mentioned that perhaps a contact from the NCAAA Medicare Senior Patrol can provide literature at the Safety Day. In the Spring, Triad would like to partner with Hartford Health Care for a Health Fair.

F. Choices

Will St. George reported that through his counseling sessions he has noticed some injustices related to serious medical care needs when long term disability was refused or care refused through Medicare advanced plans. He noted that with Open Enrollment upcoming he would like to have support for an event where a lot of people's preliminary medication information can be input for CHOICES counseling. The COA could help with preparatory work perhaps after a presentation is made and interested seniors make an appointment. Justin Lopez commented that this is a good outreach and Cindy noted that there could be advertisement through a presentation on Senior Living TV with education for Enfield Only residents. It was discussed that an event could be planned for late September or early October. Will was pleased with the offer of support and commented that this deserves more thought. Cindy commented that we can promote at no cost and want to do this, but need to determine how to do it in tandem with Will. Mary Keller noted that there is availability at the Senior Center for hosting a presentation.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Cindy Guerreri reported that the NCAAA grant has been approved and the COA initiative to recognize Isolated Seniors can proceed with education or intervention. She noted that starting in October work will begin with North Central to recognize those in need and begin training the community to help get referrals to Justin Lopez. Cindy clarified that SMHR is not funded under this grant.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported there is no report since members of the Friends are on vacation.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller reported that new staff member, Gary Lucero, who has been hired to work at the desk, is working out well. Gary is also a volunteer for the SMHR program. She noted that the August newsletter will be distributed tomorrow and that a number of new email requests for the newsletter have been received. On August 2nd Representative Joe Courtney will be speaking to the Veteran's group and answering any questions. Mary commented that we will be participating in the Accreditation Process. Committees will be formed to review standards which will have to be input electronically by Thanksgiving so that they can be considered for a peer review by March. The COA in addition to others will be contacted to help with the accreditation. Of the 119 senior centers in CT, only 6 are meeting National Standards. We are in the Top 10.

VI. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

Dave Goyette indicated that discussion of the initiatives is postponed until the next meeting.

VII. Announcements

Dave Goyette announced that Mike Arnone Jr., Kay Tallarita, Marlene Hoginski, Dave Goyette and Bob Tikats have begun work on the Senior Tax Relief project.

Tim Slade asked if there has been any progress on identifying an electronic resource for placement of COA documents. Justin Lopez responded that work has begun on a Google document.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Will St. George and seconded by Marlene Hoginski. It passed unanimously. Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, August 10, 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