

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 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, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison, Tim Slade and Kay Tallarita.

Absent (Excused): Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Mary Keller, Priscilla Linehan, Justin Lopez and Will St. George.

I. Welcome

David Goyette opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

II. Secretary's Report:

Dave Goyette asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; there were two needed; one to the spelling of Bob Tikats to Bob Tkacz and two to Advantage from advanced in the Choices paragraph. Via an email, Will St. George also requested that the following be included for clarification (although not stated during the meeting) in the section on Senior Living TV Program "Choices is the CT version of SHIP, a federal program, which operates under a well-defined set of regulations, rules and guidelines." With no other corrections needed, Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept and Tim Slade seconded the motion. The motion passed (09,0,2).

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report for July. He indicated that there were very few expenses to report and offered the financial report with an opening allocation of \$11,425.00. Mary Ann Harris made a motion to approve the report as presented and Howard Florian seconded. All approved through a show of hands.

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade reported that as of August 9th, 110 residences have been visited with a total of 162 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 August 16, 2022 and then open through September 13th with only a few requests. Tim acknowledged that outstanding scheduling and miscellaneous support continues to be received from Melissa Torres-Newman of DSS. The program ends the 2022 season on November 1, 2022. Dave Goyette read a letter that was sent to the Mayor regarding a client's commendation for the excellent work done through this program, and Tim Slade said that a note was received with a donation of \$150.00 indicating satisfaction for the installation of a handrail installed in a basement. Tim indicated that this was the largest donation received for this program. He also noted that several inquires have been received from Suffield, Somers and Windsor Locks residences about the program which is open to Enfield residents only.

B. Symposium

In Pat Linehan's absence, Dave Goyette reported that through the efforts of Mary Keller, Mike Arnone and Howard Florian, 140 to 160 names have been extracted for invites to the 10/20/22 Symposium. Three mailings are being processed through the Minute Man Press including a card, invite and follow up document. The next meeting of the Symposium group will be on August 24th at 10:00 a.m. here.

C. Senior Living TV Program

In Pat Linehan's absence, Tim Slade reported that taping occurred yesterday with an interview with Mazie Shannon of All American Assisted Living who discussed programs that are helping seniors in town. By December all the scheduled programs will be filled.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita shared news that this program continues to have success with a grandparent getting custody of her granddaughter. Fundraising continues since this initiative does not have a budget through the town. She commented that the politicians have not taken to understanding the extent that grandparents have assumed responsibility for this child care. After a discussion about the need to find storage space for donated items, Marie Pyznar offered to assist Kay.

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski explained that the Triad committee will meet next Tuesday to discuss the continued planning of a Safety Day in early October consisting of fire, police, EMS and other speakers. Since there will be no Fireman's picnic this year, the Enfield Senior Center is offering to cook hot dogs for the safety day.

F. Choices

In Will St. George's absence, the following report was presented:

Correspondence: I received a thank you card from a client, which cannot be shown due to confidentiality rules. Here is what the card entitled "Beyond Grateful" said:

"Dear Will, Hoping this note finds all well with you. Thank you very much for all you did at our meeting yesterday. Your knowledge, diligence, and computer skills provided me with information I needed for health insurance and the transition necessary as a new Connecticut resident. I would recommend you to anyone. This service is invaluable. Gratefully, ..."

Open Enrollment Event: For event planning purposes, Open Enrollment is here now and it would be a shame for another year of opportunity to pass us by. Over the month, I pursued a method for volunteers to assist residents without having to use a Medicare dot Gov account. When the volunteer training presentation got up to thirty slides, I quit that approach.

Consequently, I sent out a link for a three minute video showing how to create a Medicare dot Gov account. It was lacking a little detail but that can be easily addressed.

Many older adults are experiencing increased costs at the pharmacy. This is where we can do the most good for many Enfield residents at a sponsored event.

Event volunteers would be people having had a town background check, like Commissioners. Town Councilors and other public officials may want to volunteer also. Most can find a volunteer task they are comfortable with.

Volunteer Tasks

1. Checking that the person has the needed documents with them.
2. Highlighting the drugs on a pharmacy printout to be put on the list. And noting refill frequency and quantity.
3. Assisting persons filling out a preparation form for Medicare dot Gov account creation. This includes things like Medicare number and effective dates, and a username and password.
4. Assisting with creating an Account
5. Verifying a person with an existing account can log on to it.
6. Assisting with entering or modifying drugs on a Medicare dot Gov drug list.

G. Choices (Continued)

Planning Suggestions

If doing an account creation workshop, have it before open enrollment begins and do not make it a requirement.

Do more than one event date and use no more than half-a-day.

Schedule participants into one hour blocks and let them know there is a process and some wait time.

Decide on potential dates and times **today** and plan on narrowing it down by the end of the month.

Execution

I will work on promotional and instructive materials over the next two weeks. I will look at promotional materials for town pharmacies.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Cindy Guerreri reported that more signage is approved and should be available for the facility by the end of the month. A Youth Center mural is being completed by one of the students under the direction of Tessa the Youth Development Coordinator. A survey of satisfaction for the National Night Out activities is being conducted via a Q-code. Weekly crisis training is occurring with five police officers and two social services staff working together and one session of 10 officers and four social services staff is being planned. The Town Council has supported this initiative due to current issues of mental health in a coalition. Cindy reported that beginning on October 1st, work will begin on educating the community to assist with assessing how many resources are available and are they being used appropriately. The North Central staff will identify what training is needed and be a point of contact for people. The focus will be on the entire town not just Thompsonville center.

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

In Mary Keller's absence, Marlene Hoginski reported that work continues on the standards for accreditation.

VI. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

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

VII. Announcements

Dave Goyette asked Cindy if there is any activity on the CT Aging Collaborative. Cindy stated she is working on it and looking at models such as Dementia Friendly.

Mary Ann Harris discussed the upcoming tax programs and indicated that more volunteers are needed. She noted that training is available and that she can be contacted at 860-745-9331 for anyone interested in helping.

Kay Tallarita discussed a recurring problem with poor signage for the Saint Francis residency. She noted that recently when police were called to assist with an apparent scam, it was difficult for them to find the location. Dave Goyette offered to bring up this issue of poor signage to the sisters at their September Board meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Howard Florian and seconded by Mary Ann Harris. It passed unanimously. Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, September 14, 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