

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan; Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Marlene Hoginski, Priscilla Linehan, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison, Tim Slade, Kay Tallarita. and Will St. George.

Absent (Excused): Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Mary Ann Harris and Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager.

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, Kay Tallarita made a motion to accept them as presented and Marlene Hoginski seconded the motion. All approved through a show of hands except for Will St. George who abstained. The motion passed (09,01,01).

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report and mentioned that it was a good month for donations. He commented that he would like to talk to Cindy Guerreri about the procedure for withdrawing some funds from the existing donations account since prices for building materials such as handrails continue to rise and there may not be enough funds in the current budget to pay for the increased pricing. He would also like to confirm that the funds in the donations account will not disappear at the end of the budget year. It is believed that the Town Council will have to approve of any partial donation withdrawal so Marie Pyznar offered to help with the process if needed. Howard Florian made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and Pat Linehan seconded. All approved through a show of hands.

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade noted that 120 residences have been visited as of September 13th with a total of 180 tasks completed as of April 5th by 8 volunteers (with one request completed by Telecom). Tim indicated that work for the month has been light with 2 to 3 jobs scheduled for the following week and then 2 to 3 for the week after. The bulk of the tasks will be to remove air conditioners and clear gutters until November 1st when the program season ends. Completed jobs are continuing to be referred to Justin Lopez for follow-up and excellent scheduling and miscellaneous support continues to be received from Social Services (Melissa Torres-Newman).

B. Symposium

Pat Linehan reported that work continues on the planning for the Symposium on October 20th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Asnuntuck College. A Save the Date post card, invitation and follow up document are being mailed to invitees. Dave Goyette indicated that the caterer has been hired, however, he cannot provide for clean up after the event so volunteers will be needed to help. Pat noted that volunteers will also be needed as greeters, for registration and Commissioners will be needed to assist at each table and with discussion groups. Commissioners should be available at 8:15 a.m. to assist. Notable speakers on mental health disorders and ways to get help have been invited and will be available for discussion groups. Literature on available town services will be on display and social service volunteers will be available as well. Dave Goyette complimented Pat and her team on their work efforts and excellent planning for this symposium.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Pat Linehan reported that Urania Reyes of the NCAAA was interviewed for a taping to air at the end of September concerning open enrollment which begins on October 15th. In addition, Alice Egan was interviewed about the Christmas Project. and Mazie Shannon from All American Assisted Living about services at this new facility. Pat is open to receiving more volunteers and commented that 5 people are needed to do the show; 2 on cameras, 1 for graphics, 1 director and 1 on audio. Tim Slade commented that we should be cautious since if there are too many volunteers that they may feel useless so we might want to form Teams A and B for backup.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita commented to Pat Linehan that in October she will be ready to do an interview about the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. Outreach efforts continue with the production and distribution of a new brochure about the program. Marie Pyznar offered to post program information on Facebook if desired.

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski shared a flyer about the upcoming Safety Day on October 7th from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Enfield Senior Center (ESC). This event is being sponsored by Triad in conjunction with the Enfield Police and Fire departments. Program details are available in the October ESC Center Connection and on social media. In addition, Marlene will be going before the Town Council to announce this event. A variety of demonstrations are being planned by the Police, EMS, and Enfield fire fighters including a canine demonstration and smoke house walk-through. In addition, representatives from All American Assisted Living will discuss fall prevention, and a speaker from the UCONN Health CT Poison Control Center will discuss drug safety tips. Since there will be no Fireman's picnic this year, hot dogs, chips and a beverage will be provided and cookies will be served by the Friends of the Enfield Senior Center. Marlene also commented that she is working with Mary Keller to possibly plan a Spring Wellness Day on a Saturday at the Senior Center.

F. Choices

Will St. George provided the following report to the committee with additional detailed articles on noted topics:

Choices Counseling Report – February through July 2022

Counseling Time: 78:20 (does not include administrative and training time)

Beneficiary Contacts: 66

Continuing to see a contingent of people moving from Massachusetts to Enfield-most retiring at the same time. Expedited three cases by sending them to supervisor, Urania Reyes at the NCAAA Technology Gap – Not an Age Gap.

Open Enrollment Event: PDPs – Prescription Drug Plans

Pre-Event educational events on Medicare.gov accounts and entering a drug list.

Event at ESC and/or EPL(Enfield Public Library).

Medicare/CMS Publications

Ordered publications in both English and Spanish.

Some were ordered specifically for the COA Symposium.

Medicare Changes

Elimination of delays between enrollment and the beginning of coverage.

1. During the 3 months following the beneficiary's birth month (at age 65). (Delayed 2 or 3 months).
2. During the "Annual Enrollment Period" – January 1 through March 31 (Started July 1).

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Justin Lopez reported that the department continues to be very busy. He noted that although he has successfully completed the necessary training, he has not yet been provided with the appropriate credentials to assist with the Choices program. Justin was pleased to announce that access via a Google drive is now available for the use of the Commission in archiving information and uploading COA files. He noted that he will send the link to the commissioners via an email.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that the group met last week to discuss Mary Keller's wish list for the Senior Center which includes new equipment in the fitness center such as treadmills. She was pleased to announce that town building and grounds is continuing to map for a new bocce court which has been fully funded and may be available soon. For the upcoming Safety Day, Friends volunteers will be serving cookies.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller was absent so there was no report.

VI. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

Dave Goyette requested that proposed initiatives for the upcoming year be reviewed. Here is the status of each proposal:

1. Senior Technology Inventory – Will St. George indicated that there is no time this year to attempt this and it should be postponed until next year.
2. Expansion of Grandparents Program – Mike Arnone noted that this item is connected to the Senior Technology Inventory to assess what technology is available and needed by the Grandparents group.
3. Snow Removal – Tim mentioned that there are organizations in CT that have established programs which we could possibly explore. Marie Pyznar questioned if the Enfield Explorers might be able to help. She offered to contact Officer Pedemonti to attend the next meeting. Another suggestion was a Boy Scout Eagle project.
4. Livable Community Bulletin – Will suggested that we postpone action on this initiative at this time.
5. Care Givers Program – Mike Arnone commented that this has become a Social Services project.
6. Research Dementia Friendly Community – Mike Arnone noted that he is willing to have a conversation with Diane at Parkway Pavilion and Mazie at All American Assisted Living. Marie Pyznar also offered to assist since she has been a volunteer at Parkway. Mike will reach out to Cindy Guerreri as well since she may be looking at Dementia Friendly models.
7. Build Community at Large – Work has begun on this initiative by the Social Services Department.

Pat Linehan commented that if any of these initiatives is sponsored by COA, organization will be needed including someone to spearhead a project and outsider help needed. She asked how do we get new volunteers for a focus group. Tim Slade commented that any initiative may explode into other programs. Pat commented that senior living TV, friendly visitors, isolated seniors and other programs came out of some previous initiatives.

VII. Announcements

Marie Pyznar noted that Family Day is this Sunday on the Green with plenty of family friendly activities. She also mentioned that the newly hired tax attorney will be addressing high tax appeals.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Will St. George and seconded by Howard Florian; it passed unanimously. Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, October 12, 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