

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Pauline Devino, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Mary Ann Harris, 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, Alice Egan, 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, Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept them as presented and Will St. George seconded the motion. All approved through a show of hands. The motion passed (10,01,00).

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report and mentioned what items were included in this month's expenses. With no questions about the budget, Will made a motion to accept the report as presented 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 the schedule is full with a wait list through November 1st when the program ends. However, he has asked that a few slots be reserved on November 1st for the removal of air conditioners. As of 10/11/22, 223 tasks have been completed with 36 air conditioners removed although it is anticipated that 40 air conditioners will be removed before the end of the program. Marie Pyznar asked if a key to the Annex storage area has been received. Tim responded that Bob Cressotti is working on it. Marie also asked if there is an answer to the donation withdrawal procedure; Tim said that Cindy Guerreri is working on getting an answer. Completed jobs continue 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 plans for the Symposium on October 20th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Asnuntuck College are completed. She asked who will be able to assist and with the exception of Tim Slade who is not available, all indicated that they will help. Marie Pyznar will participate and indicated that she will reach out to her caucus as well. Cindy Guerreri and Justin Lopez will be speakers. Pat noted that the room will be set up as in the past; Angelina's will be catering and will set up, however, commission attendees will be needed to clean up. Food will be provided for 50-60 attendees with some walk-ins possible. Dave Goyette complimented Pat and her team on the excellent planning for this symposium.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Pat Linehan reported that yesterday, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program was taped with Kay Tallarita, Amy Morales and Heather Benyak interviewed. Pat complimented Kay Tallarita on an excellent presentation. She indicated that this is the last taping until January when ophthalmologist, Dr. Andrew Epstein of North Central Connecticut Eye Associates will interview. Tim indicated that when taping resumes more volunteers are needed to operate the camera which is a one to one and one half hour commitment.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay spoke about the Meatball Golf Tournament which was held in Keney Park as a fundraiser for the program. She noted that 125 golfers participated for the 18 hole tournament which raised over \$2,000 for the Grandparent's program Meatball Challenge.

E. Triad

Dave Goyette complimented Marlene Hoginski on a great job. There was a good turnout who enjoyed 144 hot dogs, snacks and beverages provided by the Triad group and cookies from the Friends. Lots of helpful information was distributed. Marlene commented that this may become an annual event due to its success and she wished to give credit to Mary Keller and her staff for their assistance with this program. She also indicated that on Saturday, March 25, 2023 or Saturday, April 5, 2023 a Health/Wellness event will be presented along with a Rotary Pancake Breakfast. Marlene also reported that Triad will not be meeting again until January 2023. Kay Tallarita mentioned that no fire drills have occurred at Saint Francis Residence. Dave Goyette said that he would speak to the Board regarding this oversight.

F. Choices

Dave Goyette asked Justin Lopez if he has finally been approved to work independently on CHOICES counseling. Justin explained that as a final step he must train with Will St. George to observe the interaction with individuals. Will St. George indicated that Data Finder data has been loaded early and that the new insulin program is not included in the Data Finder which requires a hand adjustment because the new program limits insulin payments to a \$35 per month copay. He also said that he has had many calls for appointments. Will plans to distribute Medicare publications at the Symposium. He also noted that there have been a number of Medicare scams and suggested that the Senior Medicare Patrol present information on fraud at a Triad event.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Cindy Guerreri reported that the Gatekeeper grant approved through NCAAA for \$36,000 for 10/1/22 through 9/30/23 is in process of piloting for one year for community outreach and case management follow up. Rollout of the program will be discussed at the Symposium. Referrals will come from community members who identify people in distress and become the eyes and ears for this pilot. Examples of Non-Traditional referrals may be from personnel such as bank, post office and grocery personnel with Traditional referrals coming from EMS, Fire, and Police. One of the challenges will be to obtain name and phone number for a referral. Community members will be trained by North Central District Health Department to identify those requiring referral since we have heard that there are a lot of isolated seniors in our town. A TV Senior Living program is being suggested for January or February to explain the pilot. Justin indicated that follow up after referral may include a visit to assess the need for medical or home care, insurance availability and family dynamics. Some referrals may be one time while others may require long term assistance. Cindy reminded that sensitivity will be necessary in evaluating what is not typical and Pat Linehan cautioned against prejudice against seniors. Cindy also commented that the true level of need barriers will be understood through what is manageable with the current staff. Addition to the At Risk Registry will continue and staff will continue to check in advance of an event and then refer to EMS/Police etc. and can advise adult children.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that a ribbon cutting ceremony was held prior to the start of Safety Day to two bocce courts. Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Members Cindy Mangini, Marie Pyznar and Carol Hall cut the ribbon for this project which has been in the making for two years at a cost of \$1,294.12. The courts will be available through booking at the Senior Center during the day and open to the public on the weekends. Anonymous donors have offered to provide benches for comfort.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller was absent so there was no report as Mary continues to work on Accreditation details.

VI. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

Marie Pyznar reported that she had reached out to Officer Pedemonti regarding assistance from Police Explorers to assist with snow removal. She noted that although Officer Pedemonti offered to attend the meeting today, he must not have been able to attend. Marie noted that she will reach out to Steve Austin at the sub-station in Thompsonville regarding service hours for troubled youth although Cindy Guerreri cautioned that there are restrictions and liabilities with programs servicing troubled youth.

VII. Announcements

Marie Pyznar noted that the Town Council is now at a status quo with the seating of Ken Nelson. She also mentioned that there has been no further action on the Tax program for Seniors. There may be more action closer to the budget period.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Tim Slade and seconded by Kay Tallarita, it passed unanimously. Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, November 9, 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