



TOWN OF ENFIELD

Commission on Aging

Minutes for Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Present: David Goyette, Chairperson, Alice Egan, Vice Chairperson, William St. George, Secretary, Howard Florian, Treasurer, Pauline LaCroix, Pat Linehan, Anthony Messina, Mary O'Connell, Timothy Slade, Kathleen Tallarita, Dawn Homer-Bouthiette, Director of Social Services

Absent: Shirley Carpenter, William Edgar, Town Council Liaison, Greg Stokes, Town Council Liaison

Guests: Paula Vaicekauskas, Director -Adult Day Center

David Goyette, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Chairperson's Report

Shirley Carpenter has had an operation and is in the hospital.

David Goyette, Chairperson, responding to their request, gave a presentation about the Commission on Aging to the Senior Center Advisory Board.

Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the Minutes as presented, made by Alice Egan and seconded by Kathleen Tallarita, was passed.

Treasurer's Report

Starting next fiscal year, Commissioners can no longer be reimbursed for project expenses. Finance Department rules allow reimbursement for town employees only. Commissioners must cover project expenses through purchase orders prearranged with vendors.

The existing report format will be replaced by a clearer report format that also directly corresponds to the actual accounting of allocations, purchase orders, etc.

Finishing the current fiscal year: all encumbrances due by June 25th, open purchase orders must be closed out by July 15th, the balance of: grant monies will carry forward, other monies to be reallocated.

Pat Linehan has been waiting for reimbursement for Symposium Committee expenses for an extended period of time. Dawn Homer-Bouthiette stated that the difficulty expressed by Finance was the lack of detail on some receipts, and that she will resolve the reimbursement issue.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, made by Will St. George and seconded by Timothy Slade, was passed.

Committee Reports

Grandparents Supporting Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita reported on the much needed joy brought to the youngsters being raised by grandparents at the annual picnic, this year held at Sonnys' Place. Summer camperships provide normalizing enrichment to youth and respite to parenting elders. Some were denied camperships last year due to lack of funds. Kay stated that, "thanks to the generosity of the Commission" and a \$700 donation by the Enfield Woman's Club, they have approximately \$1,300 for camperships. David Goyette attended the picnic, representing the Commission.

Triad

Howard Florian reported on the regularly scheduled Triad Meeting.

For the upcoming Police Picnic on Friday, June 10th, Dawn Homer-Bouthiette suggested the requested Commission on Aging table was no longer necessary since a DSS team will be there doing surveys and handouts from a bus. Volunteers Alice Egan, Kay Tallarita and Will St. George, and the rest of the Commission agreed. DSS will distribute 100 refrigerator magnets. Kay Tallarita may be able to supply Grandparents Raising Grandchildren handouts by the Thursday, June 9th deadline.

Symposium

Pat Linehan reported. Pat will mail out the letter to be reviewed by Commissioners. Discussion of the next Symposium was postponed, pending the 2016-17 fiscal budget.

Adult Day Care

Guest, Paula Vaicekauskas, Director -Adult Day Center, reported current enrollment at 22 clients. Discussion of the sponsored project included recent and upcoming field trips, staff enumeration, effects of a social work presence (10 hours), and the possibility of an Alzheimer's support group. Dawn Homer-Bouthiette described current talks with the Felician Sisters regarding their ADC and their forthcoming Senior Community Needs Assessment.

Senior Repair Project

(RYTD -Repair Year to Date. The repair year starts April 1st)

Tony Messina reported 69 RYTD repair requests and 33 completions. This is historically the highest workload; however, the pending workload is likely less than the numbers suggest. When requests reach the vetting stage, many involve work not covered by the program. Knowledge of the program is spreading by word of mouth. Last year the program recorded 360 completions versus 150 the year before that.

Pauline LaCroix brought a request for consultation from the Suffield Home Visitation coordinator; they are interested in duplicating the program. Tony stated he would be happy to meet with them.

The storage space lease must be renewed at the end of June. The program has benefited greatly from the generous \$1 per year lease granted by Jeff Tingley, owner of Sparkle Services.

The CRT agency has programs (mostly income-based qualification such as home energy audits, insulating windows and doors) that might augment our program. Dawn Homer-Bouthiette will send Tony the relevant information.

David Goyette reminded Commissioners that volunteers for this program must be 21 years of age or older.

Transportation

The Dial-A-Ride service has extended service hours to 5:00 p.m. through scheduling changes of existing resources. They plan to add a Wal-Mart run on the second Tuesday of each month.

Old Business

Refrigerator Magnet

The Commission established an ad hoc committee -members Pauline LaCroix and Pat Linehan -that will produce a prioritized magnet distribution list. The list allocates the remaining 1,900 magnets to various senior service/contact points. David Goyette and others suggested the consideration of ordering another batch next fiscal year. The Commission identified the apparent excess demand for the current 2,000 magnet batch when discussing the number of natural distribution points. These might include: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Meals on Wheels, Senior Minor Home Repair, Adult Day Center, Congregate Living, and various DSS points of service.

Grant

The application was submitted Monday, June 6, 2016. The purpose of this grant is to identify and streamline the communication network (response to inquiry) for community services. This comes from the 'No Wrong Door' Policy. A portion of the requested funds are to develop a phone app that responds to user questions and statements by sending (via email) information directly to the service provider.

New Business

Senior Services Team

Dawn Homer-Bouthiette described DSS changes made to increase lateral communication between client-population related services, notably, the Senior Services Team. The Senior Services Team members are: Laura Bourgeois, Susan Lather, Annette Orlandi, Jessica Russell, and Paula Vaicekauskas.

Pat Linehan expressed enthusiasm and stated that the first few Commission on Aging Symposiums identified communication as a key issue in services that make Enfield a Livable Community for Seniors.

Senior TV

We heard brief statements regarding the efforts of Catherine Williamson, Project Leader.

Meeting Locations

Several Commissioners asked for clarification on meeting locations. Dawn Homer-Bouthiette asked if the Enfield Room was acceptable to the Commissioners. David Goyette stated that the Senior Center Advisory Board had requested that we continue to meet at the Senior Center. Dawn Homer-Bouthiette stated she was unaware of the Board. Dawn stated that as Staff Liaison to the Commission on Aging, she thought it important for the Commission to identify and understand all the places of service to seniors. She suggested the Enfield Room for our next meeting. A Commissioner asked Dawn if we might have some future meetings at the Senior Center. The answer was yes.

A motion to adjourn made by Timothy Slade and seconded by Mary O'Connell was passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by, Will St.
George, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. at the Adult Day Center