



TOWN OF ENFIELD

Commission on Aging

Minutes for Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Present: David Goyette, Chairperson, William St. George, Secretary, Michael J. Arnone Jr., Pat Linehan, Anthony Messina, Mary O'Connell, Kathleen Tallarita, Jessica Russell, MSW, Social Worker
Absent: Alice Egan, Vice Chairperson, Howard Florian, Treasurer, Timothy Slade, William Edgar, Town Council Liaison, Greg Stokes, Town Council Liaison
General Public Guests: 10

David Goyette, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

Chairperson's Report

David Goyette, Chairperson, welcomed the attending public and invited them to participate in the meeting. Dave introduced the new Commissioner, Michael J Arnone Jr., to the Commission.

The primary reporters for the Chairperson's, Treasurer's and Committee reports stood up to address both the Commission and our public guests.

Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the Regular Meeting (4-5:30PM) Minutes as presented, made by Pat Linehan and seconded by Kathleen Tallarita, was passed. A motion to accept the Special Meeting (2-4:00PM) Minutes as presented, made by Pat Linehan and seconded by Anthony Messina, was passed.

Treasurer's Report

Jessica Russell reported for Howard Florian. The Commissioners proclaimed the new report format, with summary page and project summary pages, a success. The needed corrections to the report are: Postage is \$100 not \$200; Other Projects is \$900 not \$800; the Other Projects category should be entitled "Missions and Outreach". **Note:** see Senior Repair Project section for a change to the report starting next month. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with modifications, made by Will St. George and seconded by Kathleen Tallarita, was passed.

Committee Reports

Grandparents Supporting Grandchildren

Kathleen Tallarita reported. The Group meets once a month on a Monday for a meal and supportive programming. Kay stated her thanks to the Commission and Town of Enfield for making the Program possible. Amy Morales from DSS provides assistance to the Group.

Senior Repair Project

Anthony Messina reported. Anthony described the Program and its history for our public guests. This year the Program establishes an annual work schedule from April 1st to October 31st, a change from year-round work. There are eight volunteers.

David Goyette said the Program has to move the tools, equipment, shelving and supplies into the new space by the end of September. Dawn Homer-Bouthiette is working with the Police Department on the ID's for Program volunteers. The volunteers will go to the Police Station to obtain their ID. Jessica Russell stated that the ID's are orange with the Town Seal on them.

Note: Will St. George stated that our Budget Report should show the potential expense for storage and the in-kind donation by Sparkle Services. The Commission agreed.

Symposium

Pat Linehan reported. Pat described the history of the Symposium and the focus group projects for our public guests. The Commission wants to focus on the issue of isolated seniors this year; this issue was proposed as the focal point of the spring 2017 Symposium. One focus group will survey seniors on the subjects of Transportation and Quality-of-Life. Another focus group is developing a "Senior TV" program, which will focus on important senior relevant topics. The series is being developed at Cox for the Public Access Channel. The program will also be shown on E-TV. Pat Linehan stated that the Symposium Committee will be meeting with volunteer citizens and professionals to discuss plans for the next Symposium.

Triad

(The Triad meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 10 AM at the Senior Center.) David Goyette reported that the Fireman's picnic, held last month, was well attended. A guest asked why Enfield allows so many non-residents to attend functions like this and Senior Center functions. Jessica Russell stated that any entity receiving funding from the Federal Government is required to open events to the public; out-of-town people cannot be denied.

Adult Day Care

Jessica Russell reported that DSS is still providing 10 hours of social work support to the program. This may be reduced in the future.

* **Adult Day Care Donation:** David Goyette reported that he called Paula and discussed why the Commission could not support the ADC event this year.

Transportation

Jessica Russell and the Commission received public comment on Dial-a-Ride. One attendee stated "I can't live without it". Another attendee asked "why the cost has gone up so much"? She stated she could "no longer afford the service". Jessica Russell said the service does provide grants for those in need of the service who cannot afford it. Jessica advised the attendee to call and ask Dial-a-Ride about it.

Old Business

Meeting Places

Discussion deferred.

Pauline LaCroix Resignation

Resignation officially announced. One open position.

Shirley Carpenter Donations

David Goyette said he sent thank-you letters to all contributors to Senior Repair Project in memory of Commissioner Shirley Carpenter. Total memorial donations were \$250.00. Dave telephoned Hugh Carpenter to inform him of the donations.

Website

David Goyette reported that Dawn is looking into the website issues.

Budget Letter

David Goyette passed the official budget letter around the table.

Official COA Location(s)

David Goyette reported that he investigated the location and status of our files. The file cabinet is currently in Dawn's office and it has DSS secretarial access. David stated that the current location is the best one. The files date from 2006 through 2014. A quantity of Commission On Aging litter bags were found with the files. Commissioners suggested a few uses.

New Business

Commissioner Terms Expiring

Alice, Howard, and Will must report by December to the Town Manger's office their intention to seek reappointment or decline.

Meeting with Town Finance Director

David Goyette and Alice Egan met with John Wilcox to learn about financial procedures. John explained that there are ways to work around the direct purchase order method that are more natural to some Commission projects. One is issuance of a card set up with the vendor. Another is the purchase of store cards. John will work out procedures with Dawn.

Future Programs

Isolated Seniors: Where and how, as a Commission, can we address this issue? It is expected to be the focus of the Symposium. Recent articles in the JI and the New York Times were mentioned. Link to NYT article is:
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/06/health/lonliness-aging-health-effects.html?_r=0.

Fundraising: Discussion started with the specific concept of partnering with the Enfield Women's Club to raise funds for the Grandparent's Supporting Grandchildren Project. Pat Linehan suggested business sponsorship is efficient. Pat Linehan raised cautionary points about fundraising events: usually requires substantial hours of work, risk of not recovering upfront costs, risk of low dollar return versus effort. Will St. George stated that he understood and agreed with these concerns, which have been raised before. This is one reason partnering with an experienced fundraiser is proposed. Will St. George said business sponsorship is a good idea. Fundraising from the populace meets the secondary objective of increasing public awareness of the Commission and its mission. Kathleen Tallarita suggested that she and Will could meet with Debbie Fiore, who is the Women's Club member responsible for the Grandparent's Supporting Grandchildren fundraising. Kay will set up the meeting. Mary O'Connell said "Family Day" is a good fundraising venue. Grandparent's Day was also suggested. Both are about one year away.

Magnets, Booklets, Pamphlets: A reissuance of magnets started discussion of this topic. A public attendee gave an extended endorsement of the "blue pamphlet" saying it was the best community information source we had ever done. She still uses it to help friends in need.

Mary O'Connell stated that business ads could pay or help pay for the pamphlet.

DSS Report

Jessica Russell announced a new DSS educational program on the third Thursday of the month. This month the program is "When I Grow Older." David Goyette requested that the Commission be consulted in the future when programs related to seniors are being proposed. Jessica Russell agreed to the request.

Jessica Russell stated the Senior Center social worker hours were cut at the request of the Senior Center Director due to under utilization. The service is provided by appointment on Wednesday afternoon 2-5:00 PM and every other Friday 9-11 AM.

Grant

Jessica Russell invited the Commission to a meeting in her office on September 28, 2016, at 10:00 AM. 1.) Dawn will speak on the LTSS Grant. 2.) The United Way will discuss the project to map the senior population of Enfield. Jessica Russell reported that the DSS won \$9,000 under the LTSS Grant through the CT DSS. This aligns with the Department overall goal of making Enfield a "Livable Community" by helping seniors to age-in-place. The award included development of the Smartphone app. The monies will go to two consultants producing the deliverables. LTSS stands for Long Term Services and Supports.

Announcements

Volunteer of the Year applications are due at the end of the month.
DSS is holding a fundraising event on Saturday November 19th, to benefit Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

The Senior Center is holding four presentations on fraud topics October 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th, from 5-6:30 PM. Topics: Online Scams; Financial Scams; Avoiding Social Predators; Bank, Shop & Spend Wisely.

A motion to adjourn made by Mary O'Connell and seconded by Will St. George, was passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Will St. George, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 12th, 2016, at 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM, at the Senior Center, 299 Elm St., Conference Room