



# TOWN OF ENFIELD

## *Commission on Aging*

Minutes for Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Present: David Goyette, Chairperson, William St. George, Secretary, Michael J. Arnone Jr., Pat Linehan, Mary O'Connell, Timothy Slade, Kathleen Tallarita, Jessica Russell, MSW, Social Worker

Absent: Alice Egan, Vice Chairperson, Howard Florian, Treasurer, Anthony Messina, William Edgar, Town Council Liaison, Greg Stokes, Town Council Liaison

David Goyette, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM.

### Secretary's Report

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

### Treasurer's Report

The absence of the expected addition to the report for in-kind rental donation under Senior Minor Home Repair was noted. Dave Goyette said going forward the Treasurer will meet with DSS each month before presenting the Report to the Commission.

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

### Committee Reports

#### Grandparents Supporting Grandchildren

Kathleen Tallarita reported. Her son raised \$1,000 for camperships through a "meatball" golf tournament. The Enfield Women's Club will administrate the funds. The outreach pamphlets have been sent to churches, lawyers, and doctors in town. Kay explained the availability of video and speaker presentations in the program. Jessica Russell discussed her role in facilitating and assisting in the outreach effort for this program.

## Triad

Dave Goyette reported. The supply of "File of Life" materials has run out. The Triad proposes a four-participant funding of the resupply of these materials, to include: the Police, the Fire Departments, the Commission, and People's Bank. The "File of Life" materials are needed in two sizes: wallet-size and "icebox" size.

The Commission had a brief discussion of anti-fraud presentations being done at the Senior Center. Michael Arnone reported. Michael stated that senior attendance at this evening program is low.

The Triad will be sponsoring a Crisis Management class in January.

## Symposium

Pat Linehan reported. A planning meeting will be held on November 16, 2016, at 3 p.m. For the first time, the planning group will include non-commissioners; i.e., professional and community volunteers. The anticipated focus for the Symposium is "isolated seniors."

Pat reported on the meeting with focus group chairpersons. The "Housing with Connections to Socialization and Transportation" Group is refining the draft of a written survey. Will St. George was thanked for his efforts on the survey development. The "Communications with Connections to Health and Technology" Group is progressing on two projects: a health kiosk, and a senior TV show. The kiosk is being funded by businesses. The Town is currently looking for 1.) a volunteer with a medical background to review and respond to the collected vitals, 2.) the best available location for reaching the senior population.

The TV program has only 8 of 15 required production volunteers before training can begin. Several Commissioners who had not already volunteered stated they would volunteer. Will St. George will send the contact information for the Project Leader, Catherine Williamson of Comfort Keepers, to the Commission via email.

## DSS Report

Jessica Russell reported.

Adult Day Care - The annual "family night" was held on September 22nd. Program status is unchanged.

Dial-A-Ride - The office is now located at 110 High Street.

## Senior Repair Project

Dave Goyette reported the storage space move took place on September 29th. The Commission once again acknowledged the charity of Jeff Tingley, owner of Sparkle Services. Two suggestions were made regarding a show of appreciation. One was a letter to the editor of a local newspaper describing his contribution to the program. Another was an offer of free advertising space in an unspecified future Commission publication funded with business advertising.

## Old Business

### LTSS Grant

Jessica Russell reported on the meeting with United Way. She described the planned results of the project, which are the Smartphone app and a resource book for social worker and service professionals.

### Meeting Locations

Commissioners discussed locations for the first quarter 2017, and in general. Two new locations were suggested, the library and EHA sites other than Mark Twain. Positive comments and noteworthy objections were given for each suggestion - a lack of consensus. Dave Goyette, referring to winter weather safety, suggested we meet at the Senior Center for the first quarter and revisit the topic in March. The suggestion was accepted by consensus.

### Fundraising

The partnership with the Enfield Women's Club was not pursued. Two Commissioners raised objections to Commission fundraising. Further discussion was deferred due to the absence of three Commission members.

### Website

The Commission discussed the current status of continuing website issues and possible remedies.

### New Business

### LTSS Grant

Responding to recent public comment, the Commission stated its plans to update, print and distribute the "Blue Pamphlet" of service contacts for seniors.

Dave Goyette asked Will St. George to be the Commission Representative on the LTSS Committee at monthly meetings.

Dave Goyette asked Michael Arnone to be the backup representative.

#### DSS COA Supports

Dave Goyette distributed two detailed lists, one from Dawn Homer-Bouthiette, and asked the Commission to review them prior to discussion next month.

#### Announcements

Webinar: October 18, 2016, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., sponsored by the CT Department of Social Services and the State Department on Aging, "Learn How You can Partner with the State Department on Aging and the Department of Social Services". See the link in the email previously sent by Dave Goyette.

Fundraiser: "Extra Life" at Enfield Street School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 19, 2016. Commissioners are welcome to volunteer and assist DSS with this project.

A motion to adjourn made by Kathleen Tallarita and seconded by Pat Linehan, was passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Will St. George, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Social Services, 110 High St.