



TOWN OF ENFIELD

Commission on Aging

Minutes for Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Present: David Goyette, Chairperson, Alice Egan, Vice Chairperson, William St. George, Secretary, Howard Florian, Treasurer, Michael J Arnone Jr., Anthony Messina, Mary O'Connell, Timothy Slade, Kathleen Tallarita, Muriel Capocci, Jessica Russell, MSW, Social Worker, Staff Liaison

Absent: Pat Linehan, William Edgar, Town Council Liaison

General Public Guests: None

David Goyette, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Chairperson's Report

We received additional donations of \$400 to the Senior Minor Home Repair fund given in memory of Shirley Carpenter. Dave sent thank you notes. Greg Stokes, one of our Council Liaisons was elected to state government and officially resigned from Enfield Town Council (consequently as Liaison also).

Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the Minutes as presented, made by Timothy Slade and seconded by Kathleen Tallarita, was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioners asked Howard Florian, Treasurer, to supply a copy of the front page summary report at the meeting each month.

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

Committee Reports

Grandparents Supporting Grandchildren

Kathleen Tallarita reported. The Group has about 4 new grandparents, probably due to expanded outreach pamphlet distribution, and efforts of Ms. Russell and others. The roll is 20 grandparents and 15 children. The Group received materials donated by Hallmark. Enfield Women's Club also supports the Program.

The first episode of Senior Views, the Commission Symposium generated senior television show, was produced last week. It features this program with guests Kathleen Tallarita and Amy Morales. It will air next month. The link to see the show now (online) is [<http://184.177.41.241/Cablecast/public-site/index.html#/show/1996?channel=1>].

Triad

Howard Florian reported. The prior meeting was on November 29th. There will be no meeting in December. The program is sponsoring a public presentation on January 11, 2017, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the topic of "Home Emergencies". We discussed potential Commission funding of "File of Life" purchases. The program is waiting to see "how the 1,000 purchased already will go", before doing further work on fundraising. The Chairperson tabled the topic.

Symposium

David Goyette reported. Symposium Committee Meetings: 1.) held on December 13th; 2.) to be held on January 19, 2017, at 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. The Symposium will be held in April. A specific date is not set.

Senior Minor Home Repair Project

Anthony Messina reported. The program has 8 volunteers with potential for a few more by April 1st, 2017. Consequently, the Program will try adding more jobs per week to the schedule. The volunteers had a productive business meeting recently; a rare occasion when everyone is together. Jessica Russell said the ID badge process is setup at the Police Department; volunteers should go there to initiate their own badge process. Discussion continued from prior meetings on obtaining a replacement storage site with the Town. David Goyette will contact Red Edgar about use of the Fermi site.

Nursing Home Project

Alice Egan reported. This season the Program is serving 40 people (52 last year). Saint Joseph facility requested gift cards only for their participants. Alice Egan

shopped at Wal-Mart and Dollar Tree with purchase orders. Some hard to find items were bought out-of-pocket by Alice. The program spent \$550 of the \$800 dollar budget. If the client list was the same as last year, the total spent would have been about \$715. Alice Egan, David Goyette, and Howard Florian will arrange to deliver the presents next week.

Old Business **Senior Center**

David Goyette reported on behalf of Susan Lather for the Senior Center. The Center has added a strength training class and a class for people with Parkinson's.

Terms and 2017 Officers

David Goyette reported. The terms of Alice Egan and Anthony Messina are ending December 31st, 2016; they need to contact Town Hall and reapply for the position if wishing to continue on the Commission. Will St. George received verification of reappointment. David Goyette noted that Commission officers are elected each January and asked members to think about serving.

LTSS Grant **(LTSS – long term support & services)**

Jessica Russell, Michael Arnone, and Will St. George reported. The State Department of Social Services held the initial project meeting with the four grant holders; Enfield, Danbury, Newington, and Hartford Healthcare. The project is effectively a continuation of "No Wrong Door". Detailed program objectives are to be determined in the project process; however, the purpose is to positively effect: 1.) service providers and their network; 2.) people on Medicaid, 3.) "isolated seniors".

New Business

Senior Food Project

David Goyette and Howard Florian reported. There is a "disconnect" with the delivery process. Hopefully the food can be delivered in January.

CRT

David Goyette reported. CRT asked the Town of Enfield to cover a \$21,000 shortfall in their budget for Enfield. CRT Program decisions have already impacted hungry seniors and further cutbacks are expected. For instance, CRT is not adding new applicants to the "Meals on Wheels" Program. Consequently, seniors returning home from the hospital or nursing home cannot get these services at the most critical period. A work committee composed of Mary O'Connell, Kathleen Tallarita,

and Will St. George will draft a letter to our representatives: Joe Courtney, John A Kissel, Carol Hall, and Gregory Stokes. The draft will be sent to members via email for comments.

Senior Services Booklet

David Goyette reported. David Goyette suggested work on the blue pamphlet be postponed until next fiscal year. Will St. George stated that we have yet to see the materials from United Way. Jessica Russell stated that the pamphlet might be included in a 2018 continuation of the LTSS grant. The Chairperson tabled the topic.

Website

Timothy Slade reported. The website issues still exist. Jessica Russell stated that DSS was told the items were fixed. Further discussion ensued.

Announcements

Timothy Slade announced that the Mayor's Advisory Committee had a presentation on Enfield DSS given by Dawn and her team. Timothy Slade said he was surprised by the scope and volume of what the Department does.

A motion to adjourn, made by Will St. George and seconded by Michael Arnone, was passed unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Will St. George, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Senior Center, 299 Elm St., Conference Room