

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Marlene Hoginski, Mary Ann Harris, Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Tim Slade and Will St. George.

Absent (Excused): Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Patricia Linehan, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison and Kay Tallarita.

I. Welcome

David Goyette opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Secretary's Report:

Dave Goyette asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. With no corrections needed, Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Howard Florian seconded. The motion was carried (9,2,0).

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report and noted that this month there were minimal expenses again. He mentioned a concern about dwindling expenses in the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren account and asked if we should be informing Amy Morales about it should more funds be needed from us. Dave Goyette offered to send an email to Amy. Dave Goyette also mentioned that the invoice for new pens has been paid, but that the magnets will be paid as soon as the invoice is received. With no further questions or discussion about the report, Mary Ann Harris made a motion to approve it and Marlene Hoginski seconded. The motion passed through a show of hands.

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade reported that this year's program will begin on April 4th with appointments beginning to be taken on March 14th. Regarding volunteers, Gary who had surgery can return with limitations so there will be a full crew. Tim would like to start with 6 requests per week, building to a goal of 8 requests per week. He said that he will mention the Senior Tax Relief program to the eligible volunteers.

B. Symposium

Pat Linehan was absent so there was no report this month.

C. Senior Living TV Program

In Pat Linehan's absence, Tim Slade and Dave Goyette reported that 2 shows were taped yesterday; one on Amplify and the other on Gambling Addiction. They indicated that the taping went well and that volunteers would like to tape 2 shows per month. Mary Keller's recent taping about Enfield Senior Center activity will air in April. Tim stated that he would like to continue cross training of the volunteers for best coverage.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita was absent so there was no report this month, however, it was noted that Kay would like to get an email address for Tim Jensen of the Enfield Patch. Mary Keller offered to get this information to Kay.

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski reported that the Senior Wellness program planned by the Triad group for April 1st is being cancelled due to the lack of participants and will probably not occur by the end of our fiscal year.

F. Choices

Justin Lopez reported that calls continue from individuals soon to retire with some being town employees. He noted that as on 5/11/23 some COVID related programs will discontinue and some recipients may need to reapply for benefits. Will St. George reported that activity for Choices is quieter, however, sometimes the substance of a request for service is involved and can be time consuming. He noted that when people are ready for Medicare, they may underestimate the ramifications so he has been making a Your Medicare Benefits publication available at the Senior Center. Mary Keller confirmed that this publication has been well received. Mike Arnone asked if anyone is familiar with the Dual Coverage program such as the one through United Healthcare. He said that he would be interested in learning more about it. Dave Goyette commended Will and Justin for their continued efforts with the Choices program and extended thanks to Mary Keller and her staff for their support.

G. VITA/AARP

Mary Ann Harris reported that the AARP tax preparation program is running smoothly with the assistance of the new coordinator, Maureen and staff at the Enfield Senior Center. Mary Keller commented that appointments are full at this time, however, those on a wait list are advised that they will be called in the event of an opening or may call the Suffield Senior Center which has appointments available. VITA services at Asnuntuck Community College continue on Tuesdays from 6-9 p.m. with an appointment necessary by calling 211. VITA filing requirements are stricter with participants eligible under a maximum of \$60,000.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

In Cindy Guerreri's absence, Justin Lopez reported that Gatekeeper training was completed in 3 sessions in February with a few more sessions to schedule for firefighting departments.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that, as requested, the Friends have purchased 98 new chairs for the Senior Center. They will be meeting tomorrow to focus on other requests. Mary Keller indicated that the old, used chairs will probably be taken by the Building and Grounds department to be used for backup chairs for events.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller reported that a new replacement for the part time night staff will be starting tomorrow night allowing for no interruption in service. She noted that there are tentative plans for celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Enfield Senior Center from June 5th through June 9th including tours, classes, volunteer appreciation activities, a picnic, games and entertainment. More concrete information about the specific activities will be available at the next meeting. COA members have expressed an interest in sponsoring a band for the anniversary celebration. With some questions about committee sponsorship limitations, Dave Goyette will investigate and Mary Keller will provide options and costs for entertainment prior to a vote on sponsorship.

VI. New Business

Volunteer Tax Relief

Dave Goyette reported that the plan for volunteer tax relief that he, Marlene Hoginski and Michael Arnone, Jr. presented at the March 6th Town Council meeting was unanimously approved. This plan provides an exemption of \$400 to town property taxes effective for 2024 for 50 volunteer hours of service beginning in January 2023. To qualify, volunteers must be 65 years of age, own their home (without liens) and have lived in Enfield for at least 5 years. This benefit will be extended to 60 volunteers at a cost of \$26,000 for the first year. Applications will be on the Town Website, with hard copies at Town Hall, the Senior Center and Library when the forms are available. Applicants must apply by February 2024.

New COA Magnets and Pens

Dave Goyette reported that 2,500 purple and white town phone informational magnets have been received along with 250 COA logo pens. Payment for these items will be made through the Missions and Outreach account with some being distributed to the Senior Center, Library, DSS and for the use of the SMRP program. Marlene Hoginski suggested that some be distributed for the upcoming Anniversary celebration.

VII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Will St. George and seconded by Marlene Hoginski; it passed unanimously and Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Cc:

Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison
Cindy Guerreri, Staff Liaison & Director of Social Services
Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager
Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison
Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Town Manager