

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Marlene Hoginski, Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager, Patricia Linehan, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison, Tim Slade, Kay Tallarita and Will. St. George.

Absent (Excused): Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Alice Egan and Mary Ann Harris.

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 through a show of hands.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report. He noted that the report reflects the transfer of expenses to the Missions and Outreach account for the Commission's sponsorship of the concert for 20th Anniversary Senior Center Celebration and that about \$400 more in expenses for SMHR are not included. He also commented that donations continue to be steady, but that they will not be posted until Melissa Torres-Newman returns to work. There was discussion about how to spend the remaining balance of over \$1,000 by the end of the budget year. Kay Tallarita suggested that a table be bought to be used by the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group, however, Tim Slade noted that there are tables being stored at the Annex that perhaps could be used for this purpose without a purchase. Cindy Guerreri said that she would check with Amy Morales about the need and determine who to contact about the availability of one table. Kay also mentioned that there is always need for funding for summer camp. Marie Pyznar suggested that a small donation could be made to the Mark Twain congregated facility which has resumed fun activities for the residents such as bingo and holiday celebrations. There will be more discussion at the June meeting with the final gifting of available funds. With no further discussion, Howard Florian made a motion to approve the financial report and Marlene Hoginski seconded. All approved through a show of hands.

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade reported that since the beginning of this year's program on April 4th, 79 tasks have been completed as of May 9th for 40 residences. Of these tasks, 11 air conditioners have been installed by a total of 8 volunteers with all completed jobs referred to Justin Lopez for follow up. An additional 22 air conditioners need to be installed with the work schedule filled until June 20th. Tim Slade again reiterated his appreciation to the Social Services for their outstanding scheduling and miscellaneous support and remarked how great is the new work space for the SMHR volunteers. He noted that the 2023 work season ends on October 31st, but that there could be a small extension if needed to complete requested repairs.

B. Symposium

Pat Linehan commented that there was a recent newspaper article on Livable Communities which might be an interesting topic for the next Symposium. There was interest by the members for more information on this topic. Cindy Guerreri explained that there is information through the CT Age Well Collaborative for which Justin Lopez is a Leadership attendee and AARP a collaborative member. Justin Lopez offered to present an overview at the next meeting about this topic. Dave Goyette commented that this is worth pursuing.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Pat Linehan reported that the final taping will be on May 17th with Dr. Martha McLeod being interviewed about her experience since retiring from Asnuntuck Community College and an interview with Mary Keller including details about the planned events for the 20th year Senior Center celebration.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita reported that the Enfield Women's Club has received the Women's State award for the Grandparent's program for reaching out to parents and children. She also discussed some details of the summer camp program which includes 8 different camps (not only in Enfield) and a wait list. Marlene Hoginski asked if any of the girls in the program are Girl Scouts since financial aid for summer camp may be available through a Girl Scout Funding program. Kay responded that the names of the children in the program are confidential so she does not know if there are any girl scouts enrolled. She said that she would check. Pat Linehan asked if our program is the only one in the State. Kay said she would check since there may be one other.

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski reported that the group met yesterday to continue planning for the Safety Day on Saturday September 20th. She asked that any suggestions for information tables be sent to her.

F. Choices

Jason Lopez reported that things are pretty quiet regarding Choices requests. Will St. George indicated that the end of the Public Health Emergency will be tomorrow, May 11th when there will no longer be free COVID tests. He noted that there may be some cost barriers for some who have no insurance. Will offered to share a Kaiser Family Foundation document concerning this issue.

G. VITA/AARP

Mary Ann Harris was absent so there was no report.

H. SENIOR TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Dave Goyette reported that there is no formal tax processing form as yet. Mary Keller stated that she has received several sample tracking forms that were distributed at the recent Tax Relief presentation that citizens think are the official forms. She commented that she would like to wait until the 20th anniversary celebration is over to address with the Senior Tax Relief committee how to update the form and pose to the Town Manager any questions for clarification. Maria Pyznar mentioned that she has had questions about eligibility if someone's home is in a trust. Questions about a trust may need to be referred to the Town's Attorney. Cindy Guerreri offered to check with the Town Manager to determine who needs to meet to finalize the approved document.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Cindy Guerreri reported that we have reapplied for the NCAA grant in the amount of \$26,000 and will be meeting with the Board on May 18th to answer any questions about the application. She noted that it is desired to have 25 entities like town departments, EMS, Eversource, etc. receive Gate Keeper training by September. It was suggested that COA be added for training in addition to banks, grocery stores, CRT Kitchen staff, Meals on Wheels, churches and Vincent DePaul Society.

V. Old Business (continued)

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that the Friends will be meeting tomorrow and have a lot of ideas on the table. For the 20th anniversary celebration, the Friends will be paying for the Volunteer Recognition Dinner; along with the PTO paying for 6 cakes for the Friday evening concert. On Tuesday evening, June 6th during the anniversary celebration, the Friends will be playing bingo and Marlene invited all COA members to join them at a cost of about \$20.00 each. Marlene mentioned that since the Cornhole competition on April 16th some of the competitive participants want to start a league which will be discussed.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller reported that the Friends have donated over \$10,000 for the purchase of 100 black chairs and a new NuStep fitness machine. She noted that the AV system is being upgraded with a new sound tower and movie screen and is about 95% completed. For the Anniversary Celebration, about 100 to 125 volunteers are being invited to a dinner on Wednesday night catered by Old Country Buffet. In addition, tours, free classes, games, a picnic and two concerts are being planned. More details about the upcoming events will be published in the June Senior Center Connection newsletter.

VI. New Business

A. COA Sponsorship for the Senior Center 20th Anniversary Celebration

Mary Keller reported that she and Cindy Guerreri will be coordinating to secure a check for the Friday evening concert payment.

VII. Announcements

Dave Goyette asked Council Liaison Marie Pyznar if she could report on anything that is happening with the Town Council. Marie began by stating that work continues on preparation of the 2023-2024 Town Budget. She stated that Town Council members have been working diligently to compare the wants and needs of town departments and hope to achieve a zero tax increase with only two days left for deliberations. The deadline for voting on a new budget is Monday night.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Marlene Hoginski; and seconded by Kay Tallarita. It passed unanimously and Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, June 14, 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

