

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Mary Ann Harris, 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, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Marlene Hoginski, and Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager.

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 only a name correction from Jason Lopez to Justin Lopez needed (with apologies), Kay Tallarita made a motion to accept the minutes with the requested change and Tim Slade seconded. The motion was carried through a show of hands.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report. He noted that there are no new expenses for June as yet. Regarding SMRP expenses, after posting June expenses, about \$250 will remain in this budget and an expense in the Choices budget for phone service. No other expenses are anticipated so with this in mind, Dave Goyette asked for any suggestions for the use of the remaining funds. Patricia Linehan mentioned that at the suggestion of Mary Keller, USB drives be purchased that can be used so that Senior TV Living programs can be recorded and run on the television at the Senior Center. There was general consensus that this was a good idea and so a purchase will be made by the June 23rd budget deadline. As suggested at last month's meeting, Marie Pyznar again recommended that a donation be made for the Mark Twain Congregate facility. After discussion about donating for an ice cream social, Mary Ann Harris made a motion to provide a \$200 donation and Alice Egan seconded. Mary Ann Harris also made a motion that the \$200 be allocated from the Nursing Home Christmas budget and Will St. George seconded. All agreed through a show of hands. Marie Pyznar will provide the requestion for processing to Melissa Torres-Newman by June 15th and will shop for the ice cream social. Pat Linehan commented that the surplus is a gift so we should use it where needed. Will St. George made a motion that with the exception of the SMRP budget, all other expenses be transferred to the Missions and Outreach program; Mary Ann Harris seconded this motion, however, after additional discussion, Will St. George made a motion to rescind this motion and Mary Ann Harris seconded. All were in favor through a show of hands so the funds remain in accounts as originally allocated. Dave Goyette asked for suggestions regarding the 2023-2024 budget. After discussion and approval, it was agreed to keep the same budget amount of \$11,425 for next year.

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program

Tim Slade reported that 117 tasks have been completed as of May 9th for 63 residences. Of these tasks, 30 air conditioners have been installed by a total of 8 volunteers with all completed jobs referred to Justin Lopez for follow up. 5 more air conditioners are scheduled to be installed with the work schedule filled until July 25th and August filling up. Tim explained that 13 gutters were cleaned, but it is becoming difficult for the volunteers to climb ladders for this task. He noted that he would not like to see this task removed from the available services; will finish up this year, but will have to give consideration for next year. Tim expressed his appreciation to Social Services for their outstanding scheduling and miscellaneous support and noted that the 2023 work season ends on October 31st

B. Symposium

Pat Linehan commented that there is nothing new to report.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Pat Linehan noted that during the Senior Center Volunteer dinner, it was obvious that COA is not well known. Will St. George suggested that a COA brochure be prepared and Pat Linehan suggested that a Senior TV Living presentation feature the COA. Dave Goyette suggested that these ideas be submitted for 2024 COA initiatives.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita distributed a report on the summer camp program which includes 8 different camps for a cost of \$2,258. Payment for the camps is made possible through funding from the golf tournament conducted by Patrick Tallarita. She mentioned that 5 more kids have been added to the program since school is out and it is hoped that summer camp can be able to be funded for them. Regarding participation in the Grandparent program, in May 10th grandparents attended the May Support Group with Angelica and 8 attended in June. 9th grandparents attended the May Educational Meeting with DCF as the guest speaker and 4 grandparents are signed up with their grandchildren for the Art Night program tonight. Kay also mentioned that the program is on track to spend all the COA money. There was a discussion about whether grandparents are eligible for social security benefits through the Foster Program. Mary Ann Harris confirmed they are and said that someone from DCF could verify.

E. Triad

In Marlene Hoginski's absence, Dave Goyette reported that plans for Safety Day on September 20th continue.

F. Choices

Justin Lopez reported that things are quiet regarding Choices requests. Will St. George discussed a Kaiser Family Foundation webinar on Kepro (QIO-Quality of Care) a quality improvement organization that reviews cases from medical care providers within 24 hours and can provide immediate advocacy for help with appeals, discharges, medication refills, etc. He also provided details about the "My Hello" AARP initiatives program whereby seniors can speak with someone once a week for 10 weeks through the friendly caller program. Dave Goyette commented that this was like our calling program. Will also discussed the Medicare Savings program which provides Part B payments to eligible recipients. Justin confirmed that when signing up for Social Service programs, clients are screened for this program. Over 20,000 letters were sent to recipients to promote this program.

G. VITA/AARP

Mary Ann Harris reported that she is in a hiatus now that 330 returns were done during the tax period. She is recruiting again for volunteers who will receive AARP training. She explained that anyone can get their taxes done through the AARP program on Mondays at the Senior Center and on Saturdays at Asnuntuck, but they need to make an appointment.

H. SENIOR TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Pat Linehan asked if there are any updates about the program. Dave Goyette responded that at this time, volunteers should be keeping track of their volunteer hours for final approval. The town manager has a tentative listing of the currently eligible 501C3 organizations.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Justin Lopez distributed a hand out describing the Access Through Technology program which offers access to telecommunications equipment and training to CT residents who are Deaf-Blind and meet income eligibility guidelines. He also reported that yesterday it was announced that there is a federal program to help Medicaid recipients with reduced prescription drug prices. Through the program Medicaid representatives are able to negotiate with drug representatives to set maximum prices for medications.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

In Marlene Hoginski's absence, Dave Goyette reported that the Friends are now on vacation, however, they have purchased 3 new benches for the bocce courts which will be town installed and replaced the torn patio awning.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller was absent so there was no formal report.

VI. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

Tim Slade explained to Marie Pyznar that in order to process a requisition for the \$200 donation to the Mark Twain Congregate facility that she must list a date of the ice cream social and the number of people expected to attend. This information is needed by Melissa Torres-Newman to produce an invoice.

VII. Announcements

Dave Goyette asked Council Liaison Marie Pyznar if she could report on anything that is happening with the Town Council. Marie announced that the town budget for 2023-2024 has been approved and represents a large tax increase.

Dave Goyette asked the members about the possibility of taking a month off during the summer. After discussion, it was agreed to cancel the August meeting through a motion by Mary Ann Harris and second by Howard Florian. All approved through a show of hands.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Howard Florian and seconded by Mary Ann Harris. It passed unanimously and Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, July 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