

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING  
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.  
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Cynthia Guerreri, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Mary Keller, Patricia Linehan, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Marie Pynzar, Council Liaison, Tim Slade, and Will. St. George.

**Absent (Excused):** Mike Arnone Jr., Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison and Kay Tallarita.

**I. Welcome**

David Goyette opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**II. Secretary's Report:**

Dave Goyette asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. With no corrections needed, Will St. George made a motion to accept the minutes and Alice Egan seconded. The motion was carried by a show of hands.

**III. Treasurer's Report:**

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report. He noted that the presented treasurer's report is not correct since it does not reflect any encumbrances. There ensued a lengthy discussion about how blanket purchase orders are used for budgeting purchases and should be listed as encumbrances for a true picture of the budget, and closed out at budget year-end. Tim explained that he is aware of blanket purchase orders for Home Depot and Verizon, however, was not aware of any other encumbrances which would affect the budget such as a blanket purchase order for the grandparents account which currently has two open purchase orders. Cindy Guerreri explained that the budget is monitored by Social Services and is aware that there are encumbrances which are not listed. She said that as of the budget year end, 95.9% of the budget has been spent with \$469.71 remaining. Tim commented that for the new budget year, a column listing the encumbrances should be listed. Mary Ann Harris offered to add an encumbrance column to the budget spreadsheet if Tim forwards the document to her.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program**

Tim Slade shared a sample of the new sweatshirts for the volunteer staff that were purchased from the repair donations. He reported that 148 tasks have been completed as of July 11<sup>th</sup> for 83 residences. Of these tasks, 32 air conditioners have been installed by a total of 8 volunteers with all completed jobs referred to Justin Lopez for follow up. Two more air conditioners are scheduled to be installed with the work schedule filled until August 8<sup>th</sup>. Tim reported that 14 gutters were cleaned; an additional 11 are scheduled as of July 12<sup>th</sup>. He again expressed his appreciation to Social Services for their outstanding support and noted that the 2023 work season ends on October 31<sup>st</sup>, however, if needed there can be a week extensive to complete orders.

On another matter, Tim became very upset with a recent email from the Town Manager requesting his project's cooperation with the Recreation Department concerning their new storage space. What is entailed is for the children coming to swimming lessons to use the entrance to the outside door closest to the swimming pool which is the same doorway used by the SMHR volunteers to return their equipment after completing jobs. The issue is for swimmer protection since they cannot enter through the main lobby which will be conducting a summer camp for the same four weeks and the doors will be locked for child safety. In order to not inhibit SMHR volunteers from entering the building during this time, the current solution appears to be that from 10:30 a.m. to noon on four Tuesdays in August for the Recreation Department to place a staff member at the door to monitor anyone entering the building to protect the children coming to swimming lessons. Dave Goyette said he will discuss with the Recreation Director a solution. The Town Manager also suggested that photos be taken of volunteers as they work and post on social media and the Town Website. Tim responded that the volunteers do not want their photos taken.

## **B. Symposium**

Pat Linehan commented that with permission she would like to send out a survey to the Commission asking about what to focus on and if members are willing to help. Thoughts are needed on what is a good topic, etc.

## **C. Senior Living TV Program**

Pat Linehan reported that the program is on break until September or October when interviews will resume. She noted that USB drives have been received which can be used to run programs on the Library TV at the Enfield Senior Center as suggested by Mary Keller.

## **D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Kay Tallarita was absent so there was no report.

## **E. Triad**

Marlene Hoginski reported that an emergency preparedness program is being planned for September or October on a possible Wednesday afternoon with an information booth and refreshments.

## **F. Choices**

Will St. George noted that recently a friend and client was helped and has been gratefully promoting the program resulting in several new clients. He discussed a webinar which discussed recent changes to the Medicare Law concerning appeals for physical therapy continuation when there is a no improvement discussion. Will also mentioned that there are insurance companies using AI for durable equipment determination, and that with the Inflation Reduction Act spending caps for medications may be coming down in the next year so some drugs may become less expensive. Justin Lopez reiterated that insulin prices are to be dropping drastically making it easier for diabetics.

## **G. SENIOR TAX RELIEF**

Dave Goyette announced that at the request of Mary Keller, the Senior Tax Relief committee will be getting together to brief her on details of this new program since she is being expected to verify compliance and does not have a formalized form and correct information about the program. Mary commented that once a formalized form is available and information verified as correct, this information should be put on a site where people can view it. Cindy Guerreri said that she will reach out to the Town Manager for direction.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Social Services Update**

Justin Lopez mentioned that there is no update about the Aging Well initiative which is spreading the word about the program, but not running the program just looking at best practices. Cindy Guerreri reported that the Gate Keeper program is going well, but that more training is needed and unfortunately the program is down by 2 staffers with about a quarter of the grant left. She commented that beginning in October we will need to reapply for the grant. Cindy also mentioned that 2 weekend cooks with Safe Serv certification are needed at Mark Twain starting at a salary of \$18.00 per hour and that members and volunteers are needed for the Enfield Coalition Group.

### **B. Friends of the Senior Center**

Marlene Hoginski reported that Friends are now on vacation, however, when they return a dedication of the new benches for the bocce courts will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> with refreshments. COA members are invited to attend. In addition, information for the purchase of new chairs for the Center's Technology Center is being collected.

### **C. Senior Center Focus**

Mary Keller thanked the Commission for its sponsorship for the evening band for the Senior Center's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The band was fabulous and well received for an enjoyable night of entertainment. She reported that during the celebration week, about 2,000 people came through the Senior Center and enjoyed the planned activities. She also explained that using a USB device, Senior Living TV programs are being played on the Senior Center's Library TV. Dave Goyette expressed kudos to Mary and her staff for an excellent 20 year celebration week. Mary also reported that the Lion's Club would like to conduct a tree dedication to the memory of Jack McCuin, a long time Lion's member. The tree will be planted near the bocce court for shade.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. COA Initiatives**

Cindy Guerreri explained that ice cream for the social at the Mark Twain Congregate facility has been purchased by Natasha. She explained how communication between the Mark Twain staff (Natasha) and Enfield Housing Authority (Mary Ellen) is necessary when planning a resident activity and that advanced notice is helpful. The social is being planned for August 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. Marie Pyznar invited the Commission members to attend to help serve ice cream, socialize with the residents and clean up after this social event.

### **B. Town Council Report**

Marie Pyznar reported that tax bills for the new budget year have been mailed. She has already received some comments from constituents looking for help for tax remediation and continues to get questions about the Tax Relief program. Marie mentioned that when Lori Unguire was a member of the Commission, she proposed as a fun Spring event a match of wits between Enfield Seniors and High School Seniors. She suggested that some brainstorming of program possibility occur if there is interest in pursuing this idea.

## **VII. Announcements**

Dave Goyette commented that in January 2024, the following Commission members will be asked if they wish to continue as members: Pauline Devino, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Tim Slade and Kay Tallarita so to give this some thought. Dave also reminded members that there will be **no August meeting** as approved at the June meeting.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Will St. George and seconded by Mary Ann Harris. It passed unanimously and Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting** Wednesday, September 13, 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