

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING  
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, September 13, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.  
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Dave Goyette, Cynthia Guerreri, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Patricia Linehan, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison and Tim Slade.

**Absent (Excused):** Mayor Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Howard Florian, Mary Keller, Will St. George 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 July minutes. With no corrections needed, Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Tim Slade seconded. The motion was carried by a show of hands.

**III. Treasurer's Report:**

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report and noted that this report contains the encumbrances for the new budget year. He noted that the expenses for the Grandparents account contains three entries that will be reversed since they should have been posted to a Grant instead of this account. Cindy Guerreri asked Tim to correct the headers on the report to reflect the new budget year. With no further corrections needed, Pat Linehan made a motion to accept the report and Mary Ann Harris seconded. The motion was carried through a show of hands.

**IV. Committee Reports**

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

Tim Slade reported that work orders were modified and hours changed from a start of 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. (as negotiated by Dave Goyette) to accommodate the swimmers entering by Room 21. He noted that the grassy area was shared and as expected the SMHR workers were cautious of the children entering the building. Tim stated that everything went well and there was no need for such concern as expressed in the email from the Town Manager. He shared that he was offended that it was thought that the workers would be insensitive to the safety of the children entering the building. Regarding the program, Tim reported that the program was suspended for 3 weeks due to no requests, however, it began again with 38 air conditioners being installed and with 25 gutters cleaned with 6 more scheduled as of 10/31/23. A total of 187 tasks have been completed as of 9/12/23 by 7 volunteers (1 volunteer is on medical leave and may not be returning). Tim again reported that all completed jobs are referred to Justin Lopez for follow up and expressed his appreciation to Social Services for their outstanding support. He noted that the schedule is full until October 24<sup>th</sup> and that the 2023 work season ends on October 31<sup>st</sup>, except for one request.

**Symposium**

Pat Linehan distributed a copy of a survey which she asked members to complete on line and return by the next meeting for consideration, after 8 symposiums, of their effectiveness. She stated that there will not be a symposium in the Fall, but perhaps in the Spring. Marie Pyznar mentioned the work of the Diversity group concerning mental health and suggested that perhaps this group could exchange thoughts with COA. It was suggested that Pat get in touch with Chad Woodard to exchange ideas. Cindy Guerreri mentioned that the Mental Health Department has retained a consultant to develop a 3 year plan for the coordination of mental health initiatives in the Town. The consultants are currently in the Discovery Phase and will be interviewing focus groups in an effort to not duplicate efforts. Cindy suggested that the consultants meet with COA at the next meeting in person or via TV for about ½ hour for a discussion. It was agreed to do so.

## **B. Senior Living TV Program**

Pat Linehan reported that there was a meeting today to discuss this 10 year old project. Questions about whether we need a hiatus or in what direction are we going were asked and will be discussed at the October meeting. It was reported that Mark Warnoc of COX was asked for recordings of the programs to be televised at the Enfield Senior Center and Town Hall. The logistics of how to reach non-COX customers was discussed and a suggestion made to use U-tube for transmission.

## **C. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Kay Tallarita was absent so there was no formal report, however, Dave Goyette reported that 9 parents attended the 7/9/23 meeting and 7 attended the 7/26/23 meeting. \$3,000 was spent for 10 children to attend summer camps with help from donations from the Lion's Club.

## **D. Triad**

Marlene Hoginski reported that a Safety Day will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. with presentations by Steve Hall of the Police Department and someone from the Fire Department who will be making a presentation on lithium batteries. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are requested by calling the Enfield Senior Center. On October 26<sup>th</sup> M&T bank will be making a presentation on Identity Theft at 1:00 p.m. reservations are requested by calling the Enfield Senior Center. Tim Slade commented that smoke detectors are no longer available free through the Fire Stations, but that firemen will install batteries for these devices.

## **E. Choices**

Will St. George was absent due to training so there was no report. Marie Pyznar spoke about an offering from Optima that is an eldercare Institute Equivalent Plan and asked if she could explain it to Justin Lopez if he has not heard of it. Cindy Guerreri said agreed.

## **F. SENIOR TAX RELIEF**

Dave Goyette announced that on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m., the Town Manager will be making a presentation on the Senior Tax Relief program at the Enfield Senior Center and at 6:30 p.m. at the Enfield Public Library. Finalized reporting forms for the program can be obtained on the Town Website, at Town Hall, at the Enfield Public Library, at the Enfield Senior Center and from the Social Services Department.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Cindy Guerreri reported on the Enfield Community Cares Program to help aging residents aged 70 and or adults who have temporary or permanent disabilities. She mentioned that she will be attending a meeting on Friday in Manchester to discuss how this program connects people. There is an aggressive outreach for the vetting of volunteers and for volunteer support using a \$4,500 donation from the Enfield Greater Together Community.

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

Marlene Hoginski reported that tomorrow, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. there will be a dedication of the 3 new benches for the bocce courts and the planting of a tree in memory of Jack McCuin, a long time Lion's member. The tree will be planted near the bocce court for shade. Refreshments will be served. COA members are invited to attend. On October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. the Friends are planning a Pie Social with refreshments and a door prize. Tickets are needed for this event and can be obtained at the Enfield Senior Center. In addition, plans are underway for a Retirement reception for Nancy Darrah of the Enfield Senior Center who is retiring after 25 years. With the annual Friends fund drive underway, plans are being made for the purchase of new chairs for the Center's Technology Center which are in need of replacement.

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

Mary Keller was absent so there was no report.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. COA Initiatives**

Dave Goyette spoke about the August 11<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social at the Mark Twain Congregate facility and thanked the COA members who participated. He reported that it was well received by about 35 participants. Marie Pyznar thanked everyone for their participation and reminded them that many of the residents have meager means and no family support so this was an enjoyable social event for them. Dave wished to express appreciation to Mary Ellen and Natasha for coordinating this event at Mark Twain. Alice Egan made a suggestion that we consider making this an annual event. At Mike Arnone's suggestion that we do something in the Fall, Marlene Hoginski suggested that we have a pie social. Dave noted that there are two other facilities in town, Woodside and Windsor Court, where there could be outreach to their residents, however, the logistics of providing a social may be more challenging due to their housing arrangements.

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

Dave Goyette asked Marie Pyznar to report on anything significant happening through the Town. Marie responded that currently a main initiative is campaigning for re-election.

## **VII. Announcements**

Dave Goyette reminded 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. If considering to continue these members must go to the Town website to reapply.

Tim Slade commented that Justin Lopez has set up a G-Drive for collection of COA documentation and has currently updated some interesting Social Security information for viewing. Tim also asked for confirmation of the determination of disability since many residents qualify for SMHR and other programs and it is difficult to visually identify the degree of eligibility. Cindy Guerreri responded that eligibility is determined between the doctor and patient and one cannot ask, just accept this determination.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mary Ann Harris and seconded by Pat Linehan. It passed unanimously and Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School as agreed, the first half hour will be dedicated to the Mental Health consultant in person or as a TV interview.

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