

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Pauline Devino, Dave Goyette, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Priscilla (Pat Linehan), Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Tim Slade, Will St. George and Kay Tallarita.

Absent (Excused): Mike Arnone Jr., Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager and Lori Unguire, Council Liaison.

I. Welcome

In Chairman Alice Egan's absence, Vice Chairman Marlene opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

II. Secretary's Report

Marlene Hoginski asked if everyone reviewed the minutes. With no corrections needed, Dave Goyette made a motion to accept the Secretary's report as presented and Tim Slade seconded the motion which was carried through a show of hands.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade presented the financial report for December 2025 and reviewed the expenses. He noted that regarding the Nursing Home Project, kudos to Alice Egan whose expenses for the project came within \$19.75 of the allocated budget. With no discussion needed, Dave Goyette made a motion to approve the report and Will St. George seconded the motion which was approved through a show of hands.

IV. Senior Center Focus

In Mary Keller's absence, Marlene Hoginski provided the following report: during December, the door count was of 5,486 visits and the Prime Fitness Center Visits of 461. Cindy Guerreri asked if the door count can be further defined to provide more detailed data such as how many of the visits were of new visitors. Mary will have to discuss whether her software can better identify visitor data. The Senior Center hosted 3 holiday events including a concert from the John F. Kennedy Middle School music program. The Center partnered with Bill Searle from our AARP Tax Aid program to provide a Fraud and Your Taxes presentation. Colleen Watters, APRN from the Hartford Healthcare Geriatrics Department provided a presentation on how to optimize brain health as we age. A Giving Tree was offered during the holiday season where 20 \$25.00 gift cards for Big Y or Target were received. The congregate lunch program and the Meals on Wheels program nominated participants to be the recipients of these gift cards. The lucky seniors received a gift bag with the gift cards and some special holiday treats. The Senior Center received a generous donation of \$5,000 in memory of Pat Dennis who passed away ten years ago. Her daughter asked that we refresh the plantings in the front of the building and rededicate the improved garden in her mother's memory. On Thursday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m. the Center will start booking Tax Aid appointments by phone or with Seniors stopping in to book an appointment.

V. Social Services Update

As a mean of outreaching to the community, Justin Lopez distributed a flyer of the new dates for the Caregiver Group. Meetings beginning in April. These flyers will be distributed to churches, probate court, the Town Hall and the Senior Center. Also, Cindy Guerreri reported that work has begun earlier this year on budgets so that the Town Council has more time to review them.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Senior Living TV Program

Pat Linehan reported that the taping for February will begin on February 4th with Mary Ann Harris and Bill Searles discussing the AARP Tax and VITA tax preparation programs. Suggestions for future interviewees included Pater Sorensen of the Historical Society on his new book and Community Police Officer Steve Smith.

B. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita reported that the program continues to grow with a few new applicants. She said that Amy Morales is doing an excellent job in exercising caution in how the group spends money since new revenue sources are uncertain.

C. Triad

Dave Goyette reported that the group met yesterday and will meet again in February. Plans for upcoming activities include an AARP safe driver event, and possible drone, robotics and self-defense demonstrations.

D. Choices/Senior Medicare Patrol

Will St. Goerge reported that the Medicare Open Enrollment period ended on December 7th with several changes to Medicare and Medicaid. He commented that there has been successful negotiation of 10 drugs with hope that more drugs can be successfully negotiated for lower prices. There has been a major change to TeleHealth services with changes affecting payment of these services. Also, there is a special enrollment period until March for those enrolled in Advantage Plans.

E. Symposium

Pat Linehan reported that she would like to see an initiative to expand this committee to the community members and that she would appreciate any suggestions for membership.

F. Nursing Home Project

In Alice Egan's absence, Dave Goyette reported that on December 22nd, Christmas donations were made to over 37 residents of St. Joseph's Residence and the Parkway Rehab Center for residents having been identified as not having any family or friends nearby to visit for Christmas. Alice Egan, Dave Goyette and Gretchen Goyette made the donations to the facilities to the delight of those who received gift cards, scarves and holiday gift bags.

G. AARP Tax Aide/VITA Project

Marianne Harris reported that AARP tax preparations will begin on February 2nd through April 15th and that VITA preparation s will begin on February 7th for approximately 7 weeks. There is a new tax bonus this year for Seniors of \$6,000 for a single filer and \$12,000 for a couple (income limitations). She commented that ICE Agents could show up during preparations, however, they may not receive any paperwork, and can only claim an individual.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Friends of the Enfield Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that on December 18th a holiday meal for 38 people was prepared for CRT luncheon recipients (with some additional help from Center members and the members of the Commission on Aging.) Each meal recipient received a meal with dessert and a “goody” bag. Marlene indicated that the money donated from the Commission’s Senior Home Repair Program fund is being used to pay for the food. She also stated that she hopes to provide a similar meal for Easter. Marlene also reported on the Military Tribute Banner program where the Rotary Club of Enfield salutes our living/deceased veterans through the Military Tribute Banners. This new program honors our residents’ Veterans, Active/Non-Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard members by sponsoring a banner to honor them.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. COA Initiatives

Telephone Magnets - Dave Goyette asked how we want to handle the reprint of the telephone magnets. Dave agreed to contact Cindy Guerreri to handle the few changes required. There was comment that the Poison Center number should be added.

B. Town Council Reports

There was no report since no Town Council representative was available.

IX. Announcements - Election of Officers Added to Agenda

Dave Goyette asked to speak about the election of officers, however, this was not an agenda item so a motion was made by Dave Goyette to add this item to the agenda for discussion. Tim Slade seconded the motion which was approved through a show of hands. With no new nominations indicated, Alice Egan (in absentia) agreed to continue as Chairman, Marlene Hoginski as Vice Chairman, Pauline Devino as Secretary and Tim Slade as Treasurer. It was also noted that Howard Florian has reapplied to continue as a commissioner. With the slate of officers complete all were approved through a show of hands.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Marianne Harris made a motion to adjourn and Tim Slade seconded. It passed unanimously and Marlene Hoginski adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the DSS Alcorn School Large Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Gina Cekala, Mayor
Matthew Coppler, Town Manager
Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison
Cindy Guerreri, Staff Liaison & Director of Social Services
Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager
Lori Unghire, Council Liaison