

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Dave Goyette, Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager, Mary Ann Harris, Bill Kiner, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Kay Tallarita, Will St. George and Tim Slade. **Absent (Excused):** Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Priscilla (Pat) Linehan and Lori Unghire, Council Liaison.

I. Welcome

Chairman Alice Egan opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Dave Goyette announced that we have a guest for this meeting by introducing Mike Helechu. Mike spoke about his interaction with the Commission and said that he was attending the meeting to deliver some great news. He then announced that the Enfield Commission on Aging has won a national media award from the Alliance for Community Media Foundation. *Senior Living*, which airs on COX Community Television earned first place honors in the 2026 Hometown Media Awards competition for programs focused on senior citizens. *Senior Living* has aired on Cox Community Television's Channel 15 since January 2019. Prior to *Senior Living*, a program called *Senior Views* aired from 2016-2018. Dave Goyette will prepare a press release regarding this award.

II. Secretary's Report

Alice Egan asked if everyone reviewed the minutes. With no corrections needed, Dave Goyette made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted and Kay Tallarita seconded. Everyone except for 3 members who abstained due to absence at last month's meeting approved through a show of hands.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade presented the financial report for May 2026. He commented that there is a missing encumbrance for the \$650.00 payment for the Sheryl Faye performance which will appear on next month's report. Tim also announced that money is being added to the purchase order for Enfield Pizza for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren's account, but that funds are available to cover this increase. The June financial report will reflect final expenses for the current fiscal year. Will St. George made a motion to accept the report with the additions noted and Dave Goyette seconded the motion. All accepted through a show of hands.

IV. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller reported that about 400 people participated in the annual Police Picnic on June 12th. Many commented on how much they enjoyed the live band entertainment and Mary commented that they will keep this band in mind for perhaps a future performance. She also mentioned that this Friday, June 12th there will be a plaque dedication ceremony to honor Kay Tallarita for her over 30 years of service as the Director of the Enfield Senior Center. Mary also reported on the following events forthcoming in July: Sheryl Faye performance on July 9th at 1:30 p.m., the Connecticut Bells performance on July 16th, a tribute to Happy Birthday America, Creative

Connections events for Seniors, Wild Bees, a presentation by the Enfield Garden Club and the presentation on the legacy of service military resources. On July 31s, grandchildren of Mary Hastings will be performing the Broadway show Mary Mary in honor of their grandmother.

V. Social Services Update

In Cindy Guerrerri's absence, Justin Lopez reported that the sessions of the Care Givers group have been completed. Participants expressed interest in continuing the program so it will be made into a standing group. Justin also mentioned that a Grief Support program has begun with training similar to that of 888. The goal of the program is to help with funeral planning and outreach with care coordination. Dave Goyette mentioned that the four Catholic churches in town have a combined bereavement program to help with family grief support. Alice Egan is a member of this group and explained her role. Leete Stevens and Brown's funeral homes know of this program and are able to refer families for help. It was suggested that there be follow up with this group and the new Grief Support program.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Senior Living TV Program

After Mike Helechu's announcement about the national award Dave Goyette offered congratulations to Mike for his role in helping to host some of the shows and packaging the stories for the competition. Mike commented that COX has been very supportive of this programming and that there are 66 or 67 shows in the archives. He also announced that the Commission on Aging will be receiving a plaque commemorating this award. Congratulations were offered to Pat Linehan for hosting the program and to Dave Goyette, Tim Slade, Will St. George and many others who make *Senior Living* programming possible. The last taping for this season occurred on June 3rd. Taping for *Senior Living* will commence again in September. When asked about if there is any feedback on the programs presented, Mike replied that he is working on a method for tracking.

B. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita reported that things are going well with a couple of new families joining. She mentioned that the last meeting for this year will be a hot dog roast. Kay again offered appreciation to the COA and Social Services Department for their continuous support.

C. Triad

Dave Goyette reported that on June 3rd from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Triad presented a situational Awareness & Self Defense class for Seniors which was well attended. In the Fall, M&T Bank is planning to host a fraud presentation. He also mentioned that as suggested, community police officers are frequently visiting the Senior Center for support. Also, the fire department will be having a drop in service to visit with Senior Center members much like what the community police officers do.

D. Choices/Senior Medicare Patrol

Will St. Goerge reported that he received additional Senior Medicare Patrol training this week. He spoke about the announcement that about 100,000 Wellcare Insurance recipients are losing their coverage due to a problem involving Medicare premium payments. About 1,000 people in Connecticut are affected by this problem leaving them with no medical coverage.

E. Symposium

Pat Linehan was absent so there was no report, however, it was mentioned that there is consideration for next year's symposium to be held in March.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Friends of the Enfield Senior Center

There was no report this month, however, Mary Keller announced in the Senior Center report that the Friends will begin their annual appeal initiative in July.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. COA Initiatives

- **COA Navigator** –Mike Arnone Jr. presented a copy of the revised COA Navigator document. He commented that he would like to foresee COA members and possibly Social Services volunteers offering information once a week on where to go for services needed. Will St. George offered a pamphlet he created which provides information about the COA Navigator services. It was also mentioned that a Master List reference book would be needed to address questions asked along with volunteer training. After a discussion about the value of connecting people to community services, the question of volunteer liability was raised. Justin Lopez commented that Social Services employees can also experience liability issues, but due to their professional training may have fewer instances of liability issues. If the program is initiated, there would have to be approval by the town lawyer due to liability issues.
- **Town Council Reports**
None this month since both representatives were not present.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

A. COA Initiatives

- **Enfield Together Coalition and Enfield Connects**
Alice Egan reported that as a member of the Enfield Together Coalition, the group meets once a month on the last Friday of the month. This is a group of people qualified and knowledgeable who provide a number of necessary resources. The purpose of the group is to bring people together and focus on youth and issues that they need to navigate, and issues like loneliness in seniors. This group is an offshoot of the Enfield Connects group of which Mike Arnone Jr. is a member.

IX. Announcements -Dave Goyette indicated that on June 3rd ground breaking for the Felician Sisters 41 housing units named Angela's Gardens occurred. The units will be income based at 30% of income with management by Community Builders. Eligibility is based on income less than \$50,000 per year. The complex may be ready by September: however, occupancy may not be possible until January 2027 when community services are expected to be completed.

X. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mary Ann Harris made a motion to adjourn, and Bill Kiner seconded. It passed unanimously and Alice Egan adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 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