

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

Attendance

Present: Pauline, Devino, Cynthia Guerrieri, Mary Ann Harris, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Tim Slade, Kay Tallarita and Will St. George.

Absent (Excused): Mike Arnone, Jr., Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Marlene Hoginski and Mary Keller. **Late:** Patricia Linehan and Marie Pyzner, Council Liaison.

I. Welcome

In Dave Goyette and Alice Egan's absence, Tim Slade opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and noted that since we did not have a quorum, meeting minutes could not be approved.

II. Secretary's Report:

Tim Slade asked if there were any corrections to be made to the November minutes. No corrections are needed, but due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes can be reviewed, but not approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the treasurer's report and noted that this report contains few expenses for the month. He noted that we are ending the year with a total of \$10,475.19 less encumbrances. With no corrections needed, but lack of a quorum, the report could not be approved.

V. Committee Reports

A. SMHR – Senior Minor Repair Program

Tim Slade noted that the final report for the year was submitted with the November minutes. He commented that we need to try to recruit some younger volunteers as the existing group of volunteers is aging and finding it difficult to do some jobs such as gutter cleaning using ladders. Tim also mentioned that yesterday, the SMHR volunteers were treated to a thank you breakfast.

B. Symposium

Pat Linehan reported that evaluations have been received and that there was a consensus that the Symposiums have value and should continue. Therefore, Pat indicated that she will form a committee in the Spring and begin the planning for a Fall symposium. All suggestions for topics are welcomed.

C. Senior Living TV Program

While waiting for Pat Linehan to arrive, Tim Slade reported that beginning on January 3rd, two shows will be taped in one day. The first at 12:00 p.m. and the second at 1:00 p.m.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita reported that the Women's Club is a little upset by the change of meeting dates from Monday to Wednesdays, however, she and Amy Morales explained the need for the change and there seems to be a better understanding. Kay said that Amy is doing an excellent job and the group is financially hanging on.

E. Triad

Marlene was not in attendance so there was no report this month.

F. Choices

Will St. George reported that the Medicare open enrollment period has expired. He noted that there will be an \$11.00 increase this year in most plans and that many of the plans increased their co-pays by \$45.00 more. Three plans were lost in the State this year. Will commented that he had 12 appointments last week. During one of the appointments, he was able to save the individual about \$650. Starting in February, Will will have regular office hours to assist anyone who is currently looking for a Prescription Plan.

G. Senior Tax Relief

Cindy Guerreri reported that individuals have until February 2024 to turn in their hours. She mentioned that on January 8th at 1:00 p.m., the Senior Tax Relief committee will be meeting to discuss how the program is going. Tim Slade asked if there is any communication with the applicant to acknowledge receipt once the application is submitted. Cindy responded no. Tim further commented that the tax assessor should let the applicants know that their approved paperwork has been received.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

Cindy Guerreri reported that the department continues to fill positions, Justin Lopez continues to work on Choices programs and work continues on the Gate Keeper program. Justin Lopez indicated that he has continued to train the Enfield Police and other First Responders in the Gate Keeper program with success, however, it has been difficult to get a commitment from outside agencies such as banks who like the concept, but cannot commit training time for their employees. Cindy remarked that with the next NCAA grant for the third year, there will be no application for the Gate Keeper program because there is inadequate uptake data to present. Marie Pyzner commented that we need to get a way to communicate about this program; we need to reach out to audiences perhaps through newspaper articles. Cindy also mentioned the UR Community Cares program for volunteerism. She mentioned that in January, Michelle will make a presentation in the Enfield Library and that she is working with Mary Keller to schedule a presentation in the Senior Center. 0

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski was absent so there was no report.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller was not in attendance however, she provided the following report via an email: We have hired a new program coordinator, Taylor Marino, who will be starting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. We are working on the tax appointment schedule and will publish that in the January Newsletter which will go out this week.

VI. New Business

A. COA Initiatives - No Report

B. Town Council Report

Marie Pyzner reported that leadership is moving forward. On Saturday, December 16th the annual wreath laying ceremony sponsored by the Wreaths Across America organization will take place in St. Patrick's cemetery and invited everyone to participate. She also mentioned that she has been trying to clarify Tim Slade's question about whether SMHR volunteers are covered for injuries while volunteering.

VII. Announcements

Will St. Goerge announced that he has prepared a Holiday Address List which was approved by Dave Goyette. It will be distributed via email to all the COA members.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mary Ann Harris and seconded by Will St. George. It passed unanimously and Tim Slade adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Cc:

Ken Nelson, Mayor

Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison

Cindy Guerreri, Staff Liaison & Director of Social Services

Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager

Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison

Christopher Bromson, Town Manager