

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021
Enfield Senior Center, 299 Elm Street**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr.; Pauline Devino; Alice Egan; Howard Florian, David Goyette; Marlene Hoginski; Will St George and Kay Tallarita.

Absent: Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison; Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison; Priscilla Linehan, Tim Slade and Lori Unghire, Council Liaison.

Guests: Mary Keller, Senior Center Manager, Jennifer Switalski, LMSW, Elderly Services Care Coordinator – Enfield.

I. Welcome

David Goyette, Chairman, opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. He advised that Tim Slade remains in the Hospital awaiting surgery and that prayers for he and his family are requested.

II. Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes as presented with no corrections needed, was made by Marlene Hoginski and seconded by Will St. George. The motion passed (8, 0, 0).

III. Treasurer's Report:

In Tim Slade's absence, Dave Goyette reported that the only expense of \$432.09 is for vaccination sleeves. Distribution of the sleeves will be to the Enfield Senior Center and the Department of Social Services. Will St. George asked if he might have a few to distribute with Choices interviews. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Marlene Hoginski and seconded by Will St. George. The motion passed (8, 0, 0).

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Repair Program

In Tim Slade's absence, Dave reported that he and volunteers were doing about 6 jobs per day. The program is down to the last three weeks and is booked solid. Dave noted that the team will limp through until November 2nd when the program ends. He made an observation that the bulk of the requests are from women who do not have spouses or family help.

B. Symposium

Dave asked if anyone has given further consideration for the position of Chairman for the symposium. Will responded with a copy of Attachment A for discussion. After review, Item #5 under Powers and Duties was deleted since this responsibility is no longer one for the Commission on Aging (COA). Discussion was extensive on whether it would be appropriate to solicit a chairman from the community. Alice Egan stated that Pat Linehan's plan was to get something up and running and then get the community to help. Kay Tallarita also commented that she thinks the Town Council expects the COA to run the program. Dave indicated that in the past, committee members have come from the community, but that there have been instances when required tasks were not completed by them. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the responsibility for the Symposium should remain with the COA and that community involvement could be solicited. Community volunteers would be interviewed for a Steering Committee. Many felt that timing is critical in presenting Symposium topics. Topics such as caregiver responsibility for dementia and Alzheimer as was originally scheduled for a symposium prior to the COVID outbreak or mental health during the pandemic could be considered. Jennifer Switalski, commented that if required there could be a virtual presentation. She also noted that she would be willing to be the staff liaison. There will be more discussion about at next month's meeting.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Dave reported that there was a meeting this morning to discuss further topics for broadcast. It was determined that for November Melanie Lambert of NCAAA will be interviewed, in December, Marilyn Cresotti will discuss Adult Educational Recreation and in January, Jenn will be interviewed regarding ElderCare.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita reported that a fund raiser was held recently at Keney Park in Hartford with about 125 golfers. This fund raiser was organized by Kay's son and was very successful. She noted that next week, one parent will be speaking at the Women's Club State Federation and will get a donation for the program. She noted that Deb Fiore is the State Chairman for this organization. Kay commented that new people continue to join virtual group meetings on the 1st Monday of each month. **CORRECTED Kay Tallarita requested that a correction to the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren section be made to the title of Deb Fiori from Chairman to President of the Women's Club State Federation and that two Enfield Staff will be speaking at this meeting next week and will get a donation of \$200 for this speaking engagement.**

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski reported that on September 29th a skit on Files for Life was presented at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center with about 20 people in attendance, many of which had never heard of the File for Life program. She commented that perhaps in the Spring another skit could be presented. On November 17th at 2 p.m. there will be an active aggressor presentation by Mark Rochette of the Enfield Police Department concerning road rage, pick pocketing, etc. with refreshments served. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Enfield Senior Center and is looking for more volunteers.

F. Blue Book/Magnets

Distribution of the Blue Book, File of Life and Emergency Number magnets and Vaccine sleeves continues.

G. Choices

Jennifer reported that the program is going well. Appointments are being scheduled at DSS, at the Library by Lisa Sprague and at the Senior Center by Mary Keller. Will has been conducting 45- minute interviews at the Library and the Senior Center. He indicated that sometimes he needs to make contact with requestors via phone, but is not allowed to use his own phone for this purpose. He asked if a town phone can be made available. After discussion, Dave suggested that the SMHR phone be used after November 2nd and that the greeting be changed. **CORRECTION: Will St. George requested that one change be made to the Choices section to reflect that, appointments for him at the Library and Enfield Senior Center are being scheduled by staff at the Enfield Senior Center, not by Lisa Sprague at the Library as reported. However, he stated that he was very grateful to Lisa and Mary Keller for their assistance.**

H. Nursing Home Project

Alice indicated that work has begun on this annual project and that she must complete the preliminary work prior to her going to Florida in January.

V. Old Business

A. Grants

Jenn reported the new grant writer has begun to build the Apricot system which will automate DSS records.

B. Senior Groups

i. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene reported that the Friends group will be meeting tomorrow. They will be planning a meet and greet at the Senior Center for those unfamiliar with the group's activities.

Mike Arnone suggested that a plaque be mounted by the new water filler station indicated that it was funded by the Friends. Marlene suggested that a plaque also be mounted on the gazebo to acknowledge funding by the Friends. Mike will work on acquiring these plaques.

ii. The Senior Center Advisory Board

No report since the group has not yet been called back.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller reported that the November newsletter is available starting today. Presentations by Triad and the Historical Society and on Elder Abuse are being planned. A Health Fair by Hartford Healthcare to provide COVID shots and Pfizer and Moderna booster shots is planned for Friday, November 5th. This is a walk-in opportunity.

VI. New Business

A. Elderly Services Care Coordinator Report

Jennifer Switalski reported that in last 12 days, 22 new clients have been added some for Choices. She continues to visit clients who are oxygen dependent. With the new fiscal year starting on October 1st, mental health assessments will be made for everyone who is at risk. Regarding Medicare Health Services eligibility, a doctor has to sign. There are 18 agencies to cover Enfield, however, only 3 are certified for the program which includes Hartford Healthcare, Alar and Masonic Care. Additional expenses through this unique program can pay for burial costs for veterans in addition to social security. Jenn also spoke about Lasagna Love, a community-based program which provides free meals.

VII. Announcements

Dave Goyette commented about how much misinformation is being disseminated about the Felician Sister's Community Builders petition before the Town Council regarding building senior apartments on their grounds. He indicated that informational sessions on October 16th, 18th and 23rd are being schedule to clarify questions about their proposal.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Marlene Hoginski and seconded by Alice Egan. It passed unanimously. Dave Goyette adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Enfield Senior Center.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Cc:

Christopher W. Bromson, Town Manager,
Lori Unghire, Council Liaison,
Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison,
Cindy Guerreri, Staff Liaison & Director of Social Services,
Jennifer Switalski, LMSW, Elderly Services Care Coordinator - Enfield,
Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager
Marguerite DuPrey, 'Commissioner Emeritus'
32 Woodside Park, Enfield, CT. 06082.

Cc: (one time)

Attachment