

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Marlene Hoginski, Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager, Patricia Linehan, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Tim Slade, Kay Tallarita and Will. St. George.

Absent (Excused): Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Mary Ann Harris, and Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison.

I. Welcome

Chairman Alice Egan opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She expressed sympathy to Pat Linehan on the recent passing of her husband. Pat thanked everyone for their generosity and support.

II. Secretary's Report:

Alice Egan asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Pauline Devino noted that she had made an error in the “next meeting date” which should have read, June 12, 2024 instead of July 10, 2024. This error will be corrected. With this correction noted, Dave Goyette made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction to be made and Tim Slade seconded. The motion was carried (8,1,2).

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade provided the treasurer’s report. He reported that with the continued budget freeze, the only expense incurred was \$10.76 for Verizon phone service for the Choices program. Tim indicated that for next year’s budget, he will request a blanket purchase order of \$200 for Verizon for the choices phone and that Amy Morales will have to open a blanket purchase order for Danny’s Pizza for the Grandparents program. Dave Goyette made a motion to accept the report as submitted, and Howard Florian seconded. All approved with a show of hands.

IV. Committee Reports

A. SMHR - Senior Minor Home Repair Program – Study Committee

Due to the absence of Mary Ann Harris, there was no report.

B. Symposium Work Group

Pat Linehan indicated that she would like to hold a “Town Hall” style symposium in the late Fall versus a symposium in the Spring when funding may become questionable as the next year’s budget is being prepared. She said that she would like to focus on community and on what is going on with a panel who can diffuse information circulating. Pat mentioned that she would like to connect with people who know how to conduct this type of symposium.

C. Senior Living TV Program

Dave Goyette and Tim Slade reported that there was a program taped last Wednesday which will be aired in July with State Representative Jane Garaby concerning new legislation to Nursing Homes, and that the taped interview with Mary Keller and Taylor Marino of the Enfield Senior Center will air in June. In August there are plans to conduct an interview concerning the history of the Enfield Food Shelf. Dave commented that there will be a meeting at COX on August 14th at 11:00 a.m. to discuss upcoming programming. Tim commented that he is not sure how taped TV programs are being announced. Marlene Hoginski noted that programs are available on COX Channel 16, but may also be listed on COX Channel 15 which is a programming guide.

D. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with some new p

Kay Tallarita reported that the program is going well and she shared the latest brochure which has just been reprinted. She remarked that the only problem with having two programs (one informational and the other for counseling) is that it requires feeding two groups within the budget when only one was originally budgeted. Kay noted that about \$4,000 was raised from the annual golf tournament and through generous donations from groups like the Lions Club, Riley Dance Studio, Mt. Carmel Women's Auxiliary and the Enfield Women's Club, which will be used to send some of the children to camp this summer. She invited the COA members to attend a picnic this evening at 5 p.m. with a magician and bingo for the children. Tim Slade reminded Kay that only \$58.75 remains on the purchase order for Danny's Pizza for this budget year. Dave Goyette asked if there has been any consideration made to holding a fund raiser for the program like many of those sponsored by Red Robin. Kay said that she would ask Amy Morales to investigate.

IV. Committee Reports

E. Triad

Marlene Hoginski reported that there is no meeting this month and that the next will take place on July 2nd. After the July meeting there will be more to report. Tim Slade asked for the name of the new Police community representative to the Triad Group so that he may be contacted to possibly be interviewed on Senior Living TV.

F. Choices

Will St. George reported he is going to a shifting schedule since things are slow with about 3 people being interviewed each week. He said that a number of webinars are being scheduled for August and that a Medicare Savings Program event for low income subsidy in Enfield is coming with more information to be provided at the next meeting. Will said that he will email a document of CT Resources from ADS for the COA's information. He mentioned that he would like to further discuss the possibility of developing a Citizenship Award and provided some preliminary details about how the program would work. There was a consensus that some guidelines would need to be developed before implementing this award program.

G. Senior Tax Relief

Marlene Hoginski reported that supposedly the program is in the budget for next year, but this has not been confirmed. She sent a letter to Town Manager, Chris Bromson to confirm, but has not heard back. Marlene said that seniors should be advised to keep track of their volunteer hours if the program is repeated for the upcoming year.

V. Old Business

A. Social Services Update

In Cindy Guerrieri's absence (due to vacation), Justin Lopez reported that things have been quiet since there have been no questions asked regarding the grants submitted. There will be no confirmation of approved grants until September for the grants beginning October 2024 through September 2027. He also mentioned that Social Services came in under budget for this year and has heard that there will be no changes for the next budget.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that the Friends group will be on vacation until September, however, the Annual Fund Raising Appeal has begun with a request of \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 for a couple for a donation. She noted that \$5,000 has been received from Lena Bancroft of the Enfield Senior Citizen's Bingo for new tables, however, she indicated that Mary Keller is trying to get a grant for the new tables purchase. Mary Keller and the Friends are working on the planning for an event to have Grandparents bring their grandchildren to the Senior Center for a day. Indoor and outdoor activities will be planned for this event along with refreshments.

C. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller reported that events for the 21 year celebration of the Senior Center were well attended. Members enjoyed a bocce tournament, field day, situational awareness and self-defense class for seniors, jeopardy and the Police Picnic and Elderly Brothers outdoor concert. Continuing on June 13th at 1:30 p.m. there will be a presentation of Medicare Fraud by Audrey Cole of the Medicare Safety Patrol.

C. Senior Center Focus (continued)

For the month of July, there will be an Assistive Device Screening & Education on July 16th, a dance on July 19th at 1:30 p.m., an ice cream social on July 26th at 1:30 p.m. and a program on July 31st called Stay Connected with Friends and Family using face to face connection via a video device on a television. Mary explained that the Enfield Single Seniors has disbanded, however, a group of the seniors are introducing the Enfield Active Seniors group which is a revamp of the previous Singles program however open to all seniors, not just single seniors. The Parkinson Support Group is expanding to meet every month beginning on July 23rd from every other month. In addition, on July 25th at 1:00 p.m., Stateline Senior Services will be conducting a Medicare presentation. Dr. Mitchell Cliomsky and Dr. Emily Cliomsky will be conducting an interactive discussion on Dementia Prevention on July 11th at 1:30 p.m. and Michael Miller of the Enfield Historical Society will be presenting a fascinating discussion about Strange Stories in Enfield on July 18th at 1:30 p.m. Mary Keller also reported that Coordinator, Taylor Marino is working on reestablishing a Bereavement group in August. She also mentioned that work is continuing on finding a permanent solution to the problem of emails being lost in the system. As she explained that the system has reached the capacity of 1,000 free email services, payment will be required to add any additional email requests. As a solution, the My Senior Center will be used for email communication which should remedy the lost email problem. Tim Slade asked if the "Notify Me" button on the Town Website can be removed since it will now conflict with the new email protocol. He also asked Mary if an article about the Senior TV Living programming could be added to the monthly 'The Center Connection'? Mary replied that any article would be needed by the beginning of the month for publication.

VI. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

Due to pending summer vacations, Chairman, Alice Egan asked if we would like to cancel a meeting in either July or August. Through a show of hands, July was chosen so the next meeting will be held on August 14th. In lieu of no meeting in July, Tim Slade asked that we consider discussing some budget changes. He said that he would like to open a purchase order effective July 1st for Verizon for the monthly phone charge for the Choices phone in the amount of \$200 and that Amy Morales should open a purchase order to Danny's Pizza for food for the Grandparent's program. With a new anticipated budget of \$9,711.00 Tim suggested that the initiatives be funded as the same as this year, however, the adjusted funding of \$1,286.00 be added to Missions and Outreach account. Tim will be issuing a new financial report for discussion in August. Pat Linehan asked if we could give consideration to updating our Town Blue Book. There was consensus that this needs to be done.

VII. Announcements

Dave Goyette wanted to make everyone aware of the drastic increases in car insurance recently announced. He noted that prices have increased by about 38% due to the number of accidents and repair costs reported by the insurance carriers. This is a burden to seniors living on fixed incomes. Tim Slade related to this matter the latest town census report showed that of those over age 65, 17% of the 40,000 town residents are seniors and that Connecticut ranked 7th for the highest number of seniors in the nation.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Marlene Hoginski and seconded by Tim Slade. It passed unanimously and Alice Egan adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School. **July meeting cancelled.**

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

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