

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2025 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Tim Slade and Will St. George

Absent (Excused): Dave Goyette, Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager, Priscilla Linehan, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison and Kay Tallarita.

I. Welcome

Chairman Alice Egan opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Secretary's Report:

Alice Egan asked if everyone reviewed the minutes. With no corrections needed, Marlene Hoginski 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 and reviewed the encumbrances. He noted that an additional purchase order was added for \$175.00 for the purchase of USB Drives and an external drive. There were only two expenses in February for the Choices phone cost and Danny's pizza for a Grandparent's meeting. Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept the February report as presented and Mary Ann Harris seconded the motion with all members approving through a show of hands.

Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller was absent, however, Alice Egan reported that for this month, the Senior Center hosted 5,879 visits. The two program assistant positions have been filled by Laurie Crisafi for the day position and Alyssa Meyers as the evening program assistant. The celebration of Valentine's Day, on February 14th was a great success and the RSV Presentation on Thursday, February 27th was well attended. Due to popular demand, a third foot care clinic has been added on the second Tuesday of the month in addition to the second and fourth Fridays of the month.

- A. CRT Cut Back – there was discussion about the logistics of allocating \$5,000 from the donated Senior Home Repair Program to aid with providing senior meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Due to the cut in funds from CRT once the Town Council has approved a resolution the COA can release these funds for distribution. Marlene Hoginski said that a separate food ledger will be kept once the funds are distributed to the Friends of the Senior Center. Alice Egan mentioned that she will be meeting with Carol Hall next week to discuss if the Connecticut Legislature will be evaluating the CRT meal program for more funding.

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Symposium Work Group

Priscilla Linehan was not in attendance so there was no report, however, there was discussion about cancelling the purchase order for Asnuntuck expenses for the symposium and moving these funds to the Missions & Outreach account for the possible reprint of the phone number magnets which need to be updated. Tim Slade offered to revisit the costs for reprinting the magnets and Marlene Hoginski offered to speak to Dave Goyette about the previous vendor and costs. Marlene Hoginski made a motion to close the Asnuntuck purchase order and move the funds to the Missions and Outreach account. The motion was seconded by Mary Ann Harris and approved through a show of hands from the members. Cindy Guerreri will handle the closure of the purchase order.

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

B. Senior Living TV Program

Tim Slade reported that there were two programs taped this month. Two guests from the Ellington Senior Center commented about some of their programming so that a sense of what other senior centers are doing can be understood and Dr. James O'Brien, a Pulmonary Specialist discussed Sleep Apnea. Tim asked Marlene if the Senior Center has a smart TV so that some programs could be broadcast there. Marlene said a smart TV is available, however, Tim should check with Mary Keller about her interest in showing these programs. Tim reported that the USB devices have been received and that the hard drive is being kept at COX for ease of use.

C. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita was absent so there was no report this month.

D. Triad

Marlene Hoginski reported that there was no meeting this month, but that the committee continues to work on previous items. She also mentioned that she is leaving her position with the Triad group and is awaiting a replacement.

E. Choices/Senior Medicare Patrol

Will St. George reiterated that the Senior Medicare Patrol for the North Central Region advocates for awareness and safety and that it promotes no risk reporting of Medicare fraud. He also mentioned that he continues to work on his SMP certification. Regarding the CHOICES program, after a short hiatus, Will is setting up again and will be scheduling appointments for Monday and Friday mornings with about 6 appointments each week.

F. Senior Tax Relief

Marlene Hoginski reported that last year, 154 people filed for the tax relief program. She indicated that for the tax year 2025-2026, the Senior Tax Relief committee is recommending that the volunteer hours be increased to 75 from 50 hours which may encourage true volunteerism; all other program requirements will be the same.

G. AARP Tax Aide/VITA Program

Mary Ann Harris reported that the AARP Tax Aide program continues to be very busy with the anticipation of completing over 400 tax returns this season. Tax Aide appointments are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays at the Senior Center and VITA appointments are conducted at Asnuntuck on Saturdays.

VI. Old Business

A. Social Services

To Tim Slade's inquiry, Cindy Guerreri reported that a case worker has been hired for the home-owners program. She also spoke about the approved NCAAA Care Givers Support Grant to further support the Isolated Seniors initiative. Cindy commented that the Care Givers Group is hoping to assist care givers for the elderly and disabled by providing educational information from associations like the Alzheimer's Association, etc. Justin Lopez further discussed the need to refer people to the program and distributed a flyer with details on meeting dates and times. The task force for this program is attempting to address disconnection and isolation and would like to use avenues such as social marketing to connect people across all ages. COA member Mike Arnone, Jr. is a member of this task force and Alice Egan of the COA is on the Leadership Committee.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that the Friends have planned a St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 20th with food and entertainment. A corned beef meal will be available for purchase for \$13.50. Currently 80 people have signed up for the meal and about 120 for the entertainment. On April 3rd, there will be a Connecticut's Historic Gardens Presentation with refreshments and door prizes in conjunction with the Enfield Public Library, to explore 16 historic sites and gardens. In addition, compliments of the Friends, Marlene explained that she and Mary Keller will be going on a "road trip" to look for new furniture for the Senior Center Library.

VI.I. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

2025 Blue Book

Will St. George reported that work continues on updating the old “Blue Book” for reprinting, however, the completion date has been moved up to March 31st so Will asked for some assistance in validating the remaining pages. With several members volunteering, Will intends to distribute sections of the old book for updating with each volunteer receiving an email from him with the required section to be validated. Tim reminded Will that for use of the Town Seal on the new book, one needs to see the Town Clerk.

B. Town Council Reports

Due to the absence of Council Liaisons, there was no report this month.

VIII. Announcements

No new announcements.

XI. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School.

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