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**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, April 9, 2025 – 2:00 P.M.
DSS, ALCORN SCHOOL, 1010 ENFIELD STREET**

Attendance

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

Absent (Excused): Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Priscilla Linehan and Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison.

I. Welcome

Chairman Alice Egan opened the meeting at 2:05 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 Mary Ann Harris seconded the motion which was carried through a show of hands. Dave Goyette abstained since he was not at the March meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade presented the financial report and reviewed the encumbrances. He commented that for this month the only expenses were for Enfield Produce for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program, \$199.67 for the purchase of an external drive and USB drives for the Senior Living program and for Verizon for the use of a phone for CHOICES. Tim indicated that there was a transfer of funds (\$2,000.00) from the Symposium account to the Missions and Outreach account to cover the expense for the reprinting of the Blue Book for 2025. Concerning the Donations Account, Tim Slade asked if there has been a final resolution so that these funds can be released for donation. Cindy Guerreri commented that she understands that everything has been taken care of to affect release of the donations with \$5,000 going to the Friends of the Senior Center to purchase food for the defunded two days of the CRT meal program and \$5,2140 to the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program to fund summer camps for some of the participants. Dave Goyette and Tim Slade reiterated that their understanding was that prior to the donations being released, the Town Council would have to make a resolution to do so. Cindy said that she would follow up with Marie Pyznar (who was absent) to confirm. With no further discussion, Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept the March report as presented and Mary Ann Harris seconded the motion with all members approving through a show of hands.

Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller reported that the Center has been very busy this month with 380 visitors last Wednesday alone. Mary was very pleased to announce that \$1,350 has been received from two families whose loved ones recently passed away. These donations from the deferred revenue account will be moved to the operating budget for the purchase of additional equipment for the Fitness Center. She also announced that due to the generosity of the Friends of the Enfield Senior Center, she is able to purchase 6 new chairs for the Center's Library as replacement for the worn existing furniture. The chairs purchased from Kloter Farms are being built by them and should be available in about 6 to 10 weeks. Due to increasing demand, a third footcare date has been secured and will be added each month. Finally, the Rotary Barn will be opening on May 10th with volunteers from the community and the UCONN Agricultural program. Last year about 2,000 pounds of vegetables grown from the Rotary Barn were donated to the Food Shelf and Loves and Fishes. Lanie Lebrun who runs the program has contact with the Prison for volunteers, some high school baseball teams, the Kiwanis group and the UCONN master gardener. Mary also noted that the annual Police Picnic is scheduled for June 6th with the Savage Brothers to perform (at a discounted price which was secured by Taylor Marino the Program Coordinator).

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Symposium Work Group

Priscilla Linehan was not in attendance so there was no report, however, there was mention of the transfer of funds from the Symposium account to the Missions and Outreach account for the possible reprint of telephone magnets.

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

B. Senior Living TV Program

Dave Goyette reported that Dr. Andrew Epstein did an excellent job. He noted that last week Sharon Loftus of the All-American Assisted Living and Memory facility was interviewed for airing in July. In addition, an interview with Cindy Mangini will also air in July. Tim Slade asked Mary Keller if the Senior Living programs can be played at the Senior Center. Mary replied that they can be shown on the TV in the Center's Library. Dave Goyette noted that the next taping will be on May 7th, however, no guests have yet been scheduled.

C. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita thanked the members for their willingness to provide \$5,2140 for camping expenses for the children involved in this program. She reported that last year, 45 children were able to attend camp with the funding available. Kay also mentioned that some grandparents have expressed interest in getting more information about the Connecticut Family Support Network which recently made contact with the group.

D. Triad

Dave Goyette mentioned that Marlene Hoginski is leaving her position with the Triad group and thanked her for her participation. Brad Whitcomb has agreed to be Marlene's replacement. Dave mentioned that a shredding event is being explored in conjunction with M&T bank, possibly for the Fall.

E. Choices/Senior Medicare Patrol

Will St. George reported that the CHOICES program is ready to resume with the MOU established, but he cannot begin counseling again until after work has been completed on the Blue Book reprinting.

F. Senior Tax Relief

Dave Goyette reported that he is waiting to hear back from John Wilcox about approval for the program to continue into the tax year 2025-2026 with the recommendations of the Senior Tax Relief committee. It is hoped that this item will be on the agenda for the April 22nd Town Council agenda.

G. AARP Tax Aide/VITA Program

Mary Ann Harris reported that the AARP Tax Aide program concludes today with about 450 tax returns prepared. The VITA Program will conclude on Saturday, April 13th. Mary Ann noted that many seniors do not believe that they have to file due to low incomes, however, some are entitled to refunds and do not know that. She said that Enfield is a Global Community where information for taxes from AARP and VITA can be shared which makes tax preparation easier. Mary Ann said that she wished to thank the Asnuntuck staff who have been so helpful in providing technical assistance, paper and ink as needed for the program.

VI. Old Business

A. Social Services

Cindy Guerreri reported that a case worker has been hired for Renter's Rebate and that she will be introduced at a future Commission meeting. Justin Lopez indicated that there has been sign up for the Care Givers program, but that the start date for the meetings is being moved from tomorrow. In order, to better accommodate participants, the meetings will be held on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings starting in May. Regarding the DSS Wellness Task Force, Cindy mentioned that there will be a kickoff of the Strategic Plan in September starting with the topic of social isolation across all cohorts by demographics including older adults, young adults (aged 18-25), families with young children and individuals with disabilities.

Old Business

B. Social Services (continued)

Mike Arnone Jr. is on this Task Force. Mike noted that to effectively address behavioral changes, the four P's of marketing will be considered: 1) Product – specific behaviors aimed to promote within each target group; 2) Price – assess the cost (financial, time, effort, etc.) associated with adopting these behaviors; 3) Place - the optimal setting(s) for promoting behavior change is vital (identify and address any environmental or logistical barriers that might hinder adoption); 4) Promotion – a strategy across multiple channels to reach target audiences effectively (this requires careful consideration of the best media to reach each demographic).

C. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that the St. Patrick's Day Social on March 20th with food and entertainment was well attended with about 150 participants purchasing 88 meals. She explained that she and Mary Keller went on a "road trip" to look for new furniture for the Senior Center Library and have successfully purchased 6 new chairs for the Center's Library compliments of the Friends of the Senior Center.

VI.I. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

2025 Blue Book

Will St. George distributed a draft copy of the updated "Blue Book" for reprinting and asked members to review this final draft for any new changes prior to its delivery to the printer. Members will review the draft and email Will with any corrections. Cindy Guerreri asked that the new Social Services website be added and that the entry for Shelter Division Program be deleted. Mary Keller suggested that a disclaimer be added indicated that there is no advocacy or endorsement of some of these entries; they are simply provided for information. All agreed that a disclaimer should be added; Will offered to prepare one and email a copy to the Commissioners. Marlene Hoginski distributed a March 25th email from Sheila Bailey, Town Clerk giving permission to use the Town Seal for the purpose of updating the Blue Book only.

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, Howard Florian made a motion to adjourn and Mary Ann Harris seconded. It passed unanimously and Alice Egan adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 14, 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