

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

Attendance

Present: Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Dave Goyette, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Priscilla Linehan, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison, Tim Slade, Will St. George and Kay Tallarita.

Absent (Excused): Mike Arnone Jr., Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Howard Florian and Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager.

I. Welcome

Chairman Alice Egan opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Dave Goyette asked if we could discuss the current slate of officers since the terms of membership for three commissioners have been renewed. With no changes requested, Dave Goyette made a motion to continue with the current officers: Chairman-Alice Egan, Vice Chairman–Marlene Hoginski, Treasurer–Tim Slade and Secretary–Pauline Devino. Will St. George seconded the motion and all approved through a show of hands.

II. Secretary's Report:

Alice Egan asked if everyone reviewed the minutes. Dave Goyette noted under the Treasurer's Report, the word "no" was omitted since there was no vote on the contents. This error will be corrected. Dave Goyette made a motion to accept the Secretary's report with the correction to be made. Tim Slade seconded the motion and it was carried by a total of 5 members who were in attendance in January.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade presented the financial report and reviewed the encumbrances. Mary Ann Harris made a motion to accept the January report as presented; Will St. George seconded the motion and all approved through a show of hands. Dave Goyette asked for an open discussion about the resolution of the remaining \$10,041.20 in donations to the defunct Senior Repair program. He also read an email from Council Liaison, Bob Cressotti supporting the idea to donate funds to COA initiatives that support programs for seniors in need. After a thoughtful discussion and in compliance with the Town Council's request of how the donation fund would be used, COA members agreed that, in order to, fulfil our duties through our Charter, we would like to liquidate the Donations Fund this year and donate the funds to the following initiatives that serve Enfield seniors: The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program and the Friends of the Enfield Senior Center to be used for the lunch program for seniors at the Senior Center. This agreement in compliance with a motion by Dave Goyette and seconded by Marlene Hoginski was approved. It was further resolved that a letter composed by Cindy Guerreri explaining the Commission's desired resolution of the donation funds be forwarded to the Town Manager for the Town Council as requested. **AMENDMENT: we would like to liquidate the Donations Fund this year and donate the funds to the following initiatives that serve Enfield seniors: to the Enfield Women's Club for The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program and to the Friends of the Enfield Senior Center to be used for the lunch program for seniors at the Senior Center.**

Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller was absent, however, Alice Egan reported that for this month, the two open desk positions have been filled with a former Prime Fitness employee and a new employee whose father is employed by Buildings and Grounds. Also, in celebration of Valentine's Day, the Entertainment Committee is hosting a celebration on Friday, February 14th at 1:30p.m. with refreshments.

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Symposium Work Group

Priscilla Linehan indicated that there is no further information about plans for the symposium, but that a Town Forum style meeting is still desired.

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

B. Senior Living TV Program

Dave Goyette reported that there were two great programs taped on February 5th with Probate Judge Carolyn McCafferty and Dr. Andrew Epstein of Northern Connecticut Eye Association, LLC. Audrey Cole's interview will be aired in February, Carolyn McCafferty's interview in March and Dr. Epstein's interview in April. Dave Goyette expressed kudos to Tim Slade for keeping the crew together and to Priscilla Linehan for her production skills. Tim mentioned that it was suggested that a 5-terabyte external hard drive be purchased and be kept at the studio to record shows. The cost of the hard drive is about \$180.00. Also additional USB drives are needed to be purchased for use with Social Service and the Enfield Senior Center.

C. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita reported that Attorney George Bickford was a guest speaker at the last meeting and that he provided invaluable information to the participants including options for adoption. She noted that some of grandparents made follow up appointments with the attorney concerning some of their options. Dave Goyette commented that after a recent St. Vincent de Paul home visit, he received praise for the Grandparents program from the resident and relayed that information to Kay Tallarita who graciously noted that she is very grateful for the wonderful assistance from the Social Services staff for the success of this program.

D. Triad

Marlene Hoginski reported that at their last meeting there was discussion about having another outdoor hot dog activity, with representatives from various organizations such as Alex's Army offering presentations. More information on the final plans will be forthcoming.

E. Choices/Senior Medicare Patrol

Will St. George reported that regarding the Senior Medicare Patrol, there was a recent case where an individual in ICU received 2 calls concerning Medicare Advantage sales. Will said that Audrey Cole will try to trace these calls. Regarding Choices, Will reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Choices has expired, but is being considered for reestablishment. This MOU protects the Town, Choices volunteers and participants. Will also praised the work of Paul Russell from the Town's IT department and Jason Neely and Mary Keller for their support and assistance in reestablishing this program.

F. Senior Tax Relief

Dave Goyette reported that the Tax Relief committee met on February 4th with John Wilcox and recommended that for 2025, the volunteer hours be increased to 75 from 50 hours for 2024. In addition, all other parameters of the program will be the same.

G. AARP Tax Aide/VITA Program

Mary Ann Harris reported that the AARP Tax Aide program has been very busy with the addition of an intensive 15-minute inclusive intake review prior to the tax preparation. She noted that VITA has had a slow

opening, but no doubt will pick up. Mary Ann discussed the IRS “spies” for the Greater Hartford region that may audit the tax preparations procedures for VITA, but specifically for AARP preparations at the Enfield Senior Center as a review site.

VI. Old Business

A. Social Services

Cindy Guerrieri reported that there is a vacant case worker position for the home-owners program and that there is a need for funding for the Dementia Program. From responses, a pilot program for Adult Care Givers will begin at the end of March or beginning of April. Also, there is a “Know Your Neighbor” work group being formed as a special marketing campaign to try to reduce isolation. This task force would like to have a COA member participate with the group since input from the Senior population is needed. Cindy indicated that a name change, to the “Know Your Neighbor” initiative to better identify the outreach to all ages and promote connectiveness is being explored.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that the Friends will be meeting tomorrow, however, they are planning a St. Patrick’s Day celebration on Thursday, March 20th at 1:00 p.m. with food, music, and Irish Step dancers. Limited tickets for this event will be available by contacting the Senior Center.

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. Dave Goyette expressed concerns that the updates will be completed with enough lead time for publishing by the June 30th fiscal year end and for preparation of a purchase order for the encumbered printing costs. Will gave assurances that the document will be ready for reprinting by the end of April or early May.

B. Town Council Reports

Marie Pyznar commented that work continues towards the preparation of a new town budget. Also, the search continues for a new Town Manager since Chris Bromson will be retiring on March 1st. Marie indicated that perhaps Chris Bromson may continue temporarily until a new Town Manager is hired. She noted that there have been several local individuals interested in applying for the job, and that Steve Belinda, the Assistant Town Manager may become the interim Town Manager. Marie spoke about the litigation of the nine custodians fired by the Town for timecard irregularities and noted that there are plenty of custodians to temporarily cover for these lost positions. Marie advised that she will be away for the month of March, but will zoom into meetings as needed.

VIII. Announcements

No new announcements.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mary Ann Harris made a motion to adjourn and Marlene Hoginski seconded. It passed unanimously and Alice Egan adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, March 12, 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

AMENDMENT