

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING  
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025 – 2:00 P.M.  
ENFIELD SENIOR CENTER, 299 ELM STREET**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Mary Ann Harris, Marlene Hoginski, Priscilla (Pat) Linehan, Tim Slade, Kay Tallarita and Will St. George.

**Absent (Excused):** Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager and Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison.

**I. Welcome**

Chairman Alice Egan opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Dave Goyette asked if before we begin the meeting to acknowledge the accomplishments of two of the commissioners. He noted that Marlene Hoginski was given this year's Patriot Award. Marlene explained that she was awarded due to her service with the Girl Scouts, flagging staff with the Wreaths Across America program and work with the American Legion Auxiliary. Kay Tallarita received the Democrat of the Year Award for her service to the Democratic Party, leadership with the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program, 31 years of service to the Enfield Senior Center and her work as a commissioner on The Commission on Aging.

**II. Secretary's Report:**

Alice Egan asked if everyone reviewed the minutes. There was one correction needed to the Senior Living TV section. The paragraph read "Dave Goyette reported that Pat Linehan was the new interviewer for the TV program", however, it should have read that "Pat was the substitute interviewer for the TV program". With this correction to be made, Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction and Kay Tallarita seconded the motion. All approved through a show of hands except for Mary Ann Harris who abstained due to her absence at the June meeting.

**III. Treasurer's Report:**

Tim Slade presented the financial report for June with the year-end expenses noted. He reviewed the July financial report and indicated that with the start of a new year, 4 blanket purchase orders were prepared: \$50.00 for Costco for Triad; \$150.00 for Verizon; \$400.00 for Enfield Produce and \$400.00 for Danny's Pizza. He commented that \$10,356.20 from the Donations Account continues to be listed until these funds are distributed. Tim commented that in reviewing the Town budgets since 2020 he noticed that the Commission on Aging was not listed as a Commission, but could be found under OTHER OBJECTS. He asked Cindy Guereri if she knows why there is no specific listing for The Commission on Aging when there are other commissions listed individually. Cindy replied that she did not know why this happened, but said it may have had something to do when new codes were created due to the Social Service reorganization. Cindy indicated that she will ask to get it updated. Several members found this oversight insulting and hoped that a correction will be made.

Regarding the Donation Account, Tim asked if the funds have been distributed as requested. Marlene Hoginski responded that one half of the donations were received by the Friends of the Enfield Senior Center to be used to supplement funding for CRT meals. Kay Tallarita responded that the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program has not yet received the other half of the donations which were to be used for summer camp opportunities. Cindy stated that her staff advised that no child missed out on the camping experience this year because the funds were not available to the Enfield Women's club yet, however, Kay Tallarita replied that some children did miss out. Tim asked why a check has not yet been issued to the Grandparents program. Cindy Guereri explained that the Grandparents program is not a 501C with an EIN and therefore cannot receive the check. She said that a check can be issued to the Enfield Women's Club who are the fiduciary for the Grandparents program and a check for the donations can be issued by amending the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes to read: "we would like to liquidate the Donations Fund this year and donate the funds to the following

### **III. Treasurer's Report (Continued)**

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." This amendment will also be included in today's minutes. Dave Goyette commented that this should have been done in February so that the requested funds could have been used by the Grandparents program for camp opportunities. With this amendment to be made, Will St. Goerge made a motion to correct the February 12th meeting minutes and Tim Slade seconded the motion. The motion passed through a show of hands. Regarding the July financial report, Dave Goyette made a motion to accept the report as presented and Marlene Hoginski seconded the motion. The motion was accepted through a show of hands.

### **IV. Senior Center Focus**

In Mary Keller's absence, Alice Egan reported that in the months of August and September the following events will be occurring: Experts from the Senior Medicare Patrol and the Connecticut Banking Department will be presenting a Medicare and Banking Fraud presentation on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m., Grandparent's Day on August 15<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup> a Hawaiian Luau and Ice Cream Bar, a monthly Ice Cream Social on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. sponsored by the Evergreen Center for Health and Rehabilitation which has committed to fund the ice cream socials for the entire year, and the Triad Public Safety Event on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. featuring EMS, Fire, Police representatives, narcotic dogs, a drone presentation and blood pressure readings. In addition, since the beginning of the growing season, volunteers from the Rotary Garden donated 1,400 pounds of vegetables to Enfield Loaves and Fishes, a new compressor is being installed, and recruitment has begun to fill a vacant desk position (although Nancy Darrah has offered to fill in when needed).

### **V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. Senior Living TV Program**

Pat Linehan reported that starting in September taping will again begin on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. This is one time only with the possibility of a speaker from the Chamber of Commerce, but for the first Wednesday for the next 3 months tapings, Pat will be working to get two speakers per session. Dave Goyette asked what program will be played until September 9<sup>th</sup>. Pat responded that she will speak with Mike Helechu to rebroadcast the program with the Sleep Doctor.

#### **B. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

Ka y Tallarita reported that the last meeting occurred in June, however, starting today she and Amy Morales will be meeting to plan programs for the upcoming year.

#### **C. Triad**

Dave Goyette indicated that details about the upcoming Triad Public Safety Event on September 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. had already been given so no additional details are being reported.

#### **D. Choices/Senior Medicare Patrol**

Will St. Goerge distributed a copy of the booklet he typically offers to individuals who come in for Choices counseling. He noted that a number of sales people have been aggressively promoting Medicare Advantage plans with misinformation about how these plans are better than those offered through Medicare Medigap plans and provided several examples. In assessing the current state of medicine, Will noted that many QMB patients are having difficulty finding specialists and that due to changing medical regulatory requirements, some physicians are retiring early leaving limited choices for patients. Will also reminded members that tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. there will be a presentation on Medicare and Banking Fraud as presented by the Senior Medicare Patrol and Banking representatives.

#### **E. Symposium**

Pat Linehan said that she has continued to give thought to conducting a Town Hall type symposium consisting of "Wisdom People" that would be people who have the blessing of years of experiences and knowledge. She is in the process of forming a committee consisting of Michael Arnone, Jr., Howard Florian, Dave Goyette and Mary Ann Harris to brainstorm for a gathering during the end of October to explore the details. Pat indicated that this would be a low-cost venture except for Security which would be important since recording and talking about community. It would be for Enfield residents only who would be able to express their opinions through questions to keynote speakers and through a questionnaire. Announcements about the Symposium would be through advertisements and posters within the town. Dave Goyette indicated that Bill Kiner would like to participate on the committee. More details will follow.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Social Services**

Cindy Guerreri reported that on October 24<sup>th</sup> there will be the launch of the Enfield Together Coalition's Enfield Connects initiative of accomplishments after year-long planning. She also reported on the recent Lego competition of 45 kids with over 100 people in attendance who using Legos built entities that they would like to see in town such as a water feature at Town Hall, an obstacle course at the Mall and a planetarium. The kids included groups of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders and 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Judges included engineering specialists and members of the Miracle League and one from the St. Bernard school Robotics Team. There was a BUZZ Robotics demo and Channel 8 was on hand to report on the event. Cindy indicated that she would like to see this type of program continue and bring in other STEM and Performance Art activities. She also indicated that her staff continues to address the growing homeless concern, fair rent initiatives, Medicaid and Food benefit demands and the increase in the poverty level notably in the elderly cohort. Will St. Goerge commented that advocacy is the first step in educating the public which has to start at the lowest level – the community level.

### **B. Friends of the Enfield Senior Center**

Marlene Hoginski reported that the committee is still on vacation until next month. She noted that Annual Fund donations are down, but hoping for a turnaround. The money from the Donations account is being discussed with Mary Keller who will be determining how best to use it for senior meal shortages.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. COA Initiatives**

#### **Pens/Letter Openers**

Howard Florian reported that he and Mike Arnone, Jr. have been distributing new pens and letter openers in packets with new Blue Books during activities such as evening BINGO and Friends of the Senior Center events where a number of residents can be found. Mike Arnone commented that a number of compliments were received on the updated Blue Book.,

#### **Other Matters**

Mike Arnone, Jr. made a suggestion that on the agenda, the Social Services Update be listed below the Senior Center Focus Report to accommodate the Senior Center manager and Social Services Director who are sometimes absent due to pressing matters in their departments such as short staff coverage.

### **B. Town Council Reports**

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

## **VIII. Announcements**

It was requested that due to the late hour, that discussion of the topic of setting initiatives for the new year be postponed to the next meeting. However, Dave Goyette mentioned that we need to look at updating our phone magnets since a number of phone numbers have changed. He also mentioned that ground breaking for the 40 elderly apartments for 55 and older by the Felician Sisters is expected to begin on August 15<sup>th</sup> or thereabouts.

## **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 3:55 p.m.

**Next Meeting** Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School Large Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Ken Nelson, Mayor  
Matthew Coppler, Town Manager  
Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison  
Cindy Guerreri, Staff Liaison & Director of Social Services  
Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager  
Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison