

MINUTES

Commission on Aging Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 22, 2016 @ 10 am

Community Center Room 107

Members Present: Phyllis Jachimowski, Kathy Pagliaro-Rich, and Suzanne Reilly

Member(s) Absent: Evelyn Molner, Chairman Karen Stanek.

Others present: Lucy McConologue, Elderly Services Manager, Bonnie Wilkes, Municipal Agent for the Elderly

1. **Call meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order by Suzanne in Karen's absence @ 10:09 am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** all present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Public comment:** There was no public comment.
4. **Approval of the June 1, 2016 Special Meeting minutes:** A Motion was made by Phyllis to approve the June 1, 2016 Special Meeting minutes and 2nd by Kathy. Motion Carried.

Elderly Services Manager Report: Lucy presented and distributed a prepared **Senior Center Reports** dated May and June, 2016. The June report was categorized as **Weekly Activities, Other June Activities** that included AARP Driver's Safety Course, Lunch Bunch – Junipers, Middlebury, and Seymour Community Police Program – Tour of the Seymour Police Department. The Tri- Arts Theatre- Sharon, CT, "Gypsy" has a wait list for the event tomorrow. The Uniform Fashion Show was a huge success, the Police Chief was able to wear his new Dress Uniform and enjoyed going down the runway to Hale to the Chief music supplied by a DJ. Everyone had a wonderful time. **Future Events & Programs** - the Annual Picnic at the Land Trust will be held on July 11 this is always a popular event and weather is not a problem, transportation will be provided if needed. The Essex Train & Boat Ride is scheduled for July 21st. **Bocce Court Renovation update** – Lucy met with Dakota Petruzic who has chosen this as his Eagle Scout project. Michael Kellogg who is a contractor will be assisting Dakota in developing plans for the project. The next step is to meet with the Building Inspector to get a permit. The Parks & Building Department has also been informed of the project. We'll have more specifics of when the work will be completed next month. Suzanne suggested that a dedication and acknowledgement of the work be publicized. The Color Me Happy program continues to build in popularity.

New Working Hours - As of July 1, the Center will be opened ½ day on Fridays from 8:00 – 12 noon. Additional programs will be added for the new schedule. The hours Monday – Thursday will then be 8:00 – 4:30 pm.

A recommendation was made by Phyllis to contact Orange Senior Center perhaps they can assist with obtaining/suggesting a new Zumba instructor, since it's been a while since this position has been filled.

Transportation continues for Church services, presently 2 families are using the services. It was suggested that the service be advertised in the Church bulletins. The Bus driver has been very

accommodating. The Bus schedule for shopping on Tuesday and Thursday Mornings and door to door Doctors' appointments may change after July 1 with the new schedule to include some Friday hours.

Due to Mary's absence the current membership numbers were not reported.

5. **Municipal Agent Report** - Bonnie apologized for not being present at the prior meetings and shared her **Municipal Agent for the Elderly Report** dated October 2015 as a sampling of the work that she performs on a monthly basis. The report lists the number of paid hours, number of clients, number of collateral contacts, number of home visits, and other meetings/trainings, etc. Typically issues include Medicare Savings Program, SNAP (Food stamps) Connecticut Home care Program for the Elderly, Medical Alert Lifeline, Senior Housing Options, Elderly Property Tax Credits, Durable Medical Equipment, Long Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman Program, Title XIX spenddown, Probate issues, Veterans and Medicare open Enrollment Issues. She often advocates on behalf of clients and nursing homes. Many individuals have insurance concerns. The goal is to assist clients to "stay in their own homes" as long as possible. Bonnie noted that Medical assistance has now become a critical need.
6. **Public comment:** There was no public comment.
7. **Members comment** - Kathy made the recommendation that improved signage be created to help direct those needing Handicapped Access (wheel chair, walker aide access) to the building. It's confusing and ought to help individuals who pull up to the main door to know that it's on the other end of the building, and signage ought to be posted near the Handicapped Parking indicating where the Elevator Entrance is as well.

There was discussion on ways we can get more public members to attend the Commission meetings; how we can address Housing concerns and how can we provide outreach to isolated homebound individuals and help address their concerns. Perhaps we can partner with the Pharmacies since they may be aware of those living alone and give them an outreach flyer to hand out with the prescriptions. We will work on creating a flyer at the next meeting. Committee members should come prepared with suggestions and ideas of what ought to be included on the flyer.

Since transportation and use of the Community Center bus has increased it may be advised to look for a Substitute Driver now to be able to continue to offer and expand services and accommodate the need in case our present driver is not available.

8. **Adjournment** - A motion was made by Kathy and 2nd by Phyllis to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 am. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,


Suzanne Reilly
Secretary