

Commission on Aging (COA)

Minutes from 2/27/14 Meeting

Call to Order: 11:00 am by Chairwoman Jo Golec.

Present: Rosalie Hoffman, Jovita Cozean, Jo Golec, Vicky Riley-Pach, Jim O'Brien, Brad Parker

Absent: Alice Sabo, Suzanne Bostleman, John Pagnani, Mary Ellen Klinck, Ernie Malavasi – all excused

Secretary's Report: Accepted on motion by Rosalie Hoffman, seconded by Jim O'Brien

Treasurer's Report: Jim O'Brien reported "no change" to Fund 52.

Correspondence: Letter from Suzanne Bostleman concerning a volunteer nomination for the Senior Center "Volunteer of the Year". Jo Golec requested that members give nominees to Brad Parker.

Chairwoman's Report: No report.

Old Business: Jo Golec informed members that Nathan Hale Pharmacy has finally been approved as a "preferred pharmacy" according to *ConnectiCare*.

New Business:

1. Jo Golec reported on the grant request for senior housing. Points are given for letters of support from the community. Jo has written such a letter and encouraged the members to write as well. Brad Parker explained that the grant committee utilizes a "point system" to determine eligibility as well as monetary amounts. Letters from the community are worth points.
2. Jo Golec informed the members that Mr. Ed Rocznik, Joanne's husband, passed away, Saturday, February 22, 2014. Wake and Service on Saturday, March 1, 2014.

Coordinator of Senior Services Report: Brad Parker reported on the following:

1. January attendance has been good, even with the snowy weather. Exercise and Computer rooms continue to be utilized even on the slow days. Vicky Riley-Pach asked if the increased usage of the exercise room was due to the new equipment. Brad responded "yes" and also due to the variety of equipment and the walking path has been under snow & ice.
2. Proposal to replace two pieces of exercise equipment from Fund 52. Last year, the Center purchased new treadmill and stationary bicycle. Last month, during the bi-annual service appointment, an audit of the older machines revealed that the second treadmill needs belts & deck; the elliptical needs new wheels & control panel. Cost of treadmill is \$2700; the elliptical is \$2380. Replacement is less \$ than repair. Public works will discard the old equipment. The older stationary bicycle will not be replaced when it no longer functions. The third stationary is not electronic; it should last a long time. Discussion followed regarding cost. Jim O'Brien confirmed that Fund 52 balance is \$11,128.00. Subtract the two machines - \$5,339 cost & installation; \$5,100 would remain in the fund. Jo Golec reminded the committee that the exercise machines were donated when the Center opened. The money in Fund 52 was intended to furnish the Center. Vicki Riley-Pach asked if there were any other pressing needs and if the Fund should remain liquid? Jo Golec explained that the purpose of the donation was to use the money and

not hold on to it. Vicky Riley-Pach made a motion to purchase both machines. Jovita Cozean seconded the motion. Accepted by all.

3. Met with the Senior Services Coordinator of the East Hampton Senior Center, Ms. Jo Ann Ewing, to discuss joint programming. The East Haddam Senior Center has invited members of the East Hampton Senior Center as well as Haddam and Colchester Senior Centers to celebrate spring during our *Daffodil Festival*, which includes lunch and entertainment.
4. 9 Town Transit is very happy with the response from the East Haddam community. More riders than anticipated. Initiating bus stop at Town Office Complex in front of the Riverhouse.
5. Working with Melissa Ziobron to present seminar regarding electricity sources/vendors.
6. April is Volunteer Month. Reception for Volunteers to be held April 21st. Pot Luck, desserts. Working on a list of volunteers to invite. Accepting nominees for "Volunteer of the Year" Award.
7. Jim O'Brien asked about the progress in scheduling a seminar regarding reverse mortgages. Brad responded that he has been speaking with several professionals.
8. Future plans:
 - Meeting with the new director of the Haddam Senior Center
 - Develop relationship with state agencies
 - Developing a Senior Resources File for seniors to explore services available locally and state-wide.
9. Upcoming Events:
 - March 10th SNAP/Food Stamps Sign up
 - March 16th Pancake Breakfast
 - March 17th St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
 - March 26th Philips Lifeline Alert System Sign up
 - AARP Tax Preparation: 3 more days: March 5, March 19, April 2

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am on a motion by Jim O'Brien, seconded by Jovita Cozean.

Respectfully Submitted: Susannah Griffin