

Commission on Aging (COA)

Minutes from May 22, 2014 Meeting

Call to Order: 10:33 am by Chairwoman Jo Golec

Present: Suzanne Bostelman, Jovita Cozean, Jo Golec, Rosalie Hoffman, Mary Ellen Klinck, Jim O'Brien, Brad Parker, Vicki Riley-Pach

Absent: Ernie Malavasi, John Pagnani, Alice Sabo: all excused.

Secretary's Report: Accepted on motion by Mary Ellen Klinck, seconded by Jim O'Brien.

Treasurer's Report: No change. Fund 52 account: \$6,362.00. Cost of cabinet has not been deducted.

Correspondence: None

Chairwoman's Report: No report

Citizens' Concerns: None

Old Business:

1. Jovita Cozean presented results of Nominating Committee for next term: Chairperson Jovita Cozean, Vice Chairperson Vicky Riley-Pach, Secretary Jo Golec, Treasurer Jim O'Brien, Minutes Susannah Griffin. Jim O'Brien motioned to accept the new appointees, Rosalie Hoffman seconded, all approved.
2. Senior Call System: Brad Parker explained that the town has set up the automated call system, but responders are needed when those called do not respond to the automated alert. Police will not be first responders because 99% will be false calls. How set up? Who will over-see? Jo Golec asked for volunteers to come up with ideas: Vicky Riley-Pach, Rosalie Hoffman, Mary Ellen Klinck will present ideas during July meeting. Brad Parker will invite Craig Mansfield of Emergency Management to attend July meeting.

New Business:

1. Jo Golec offered congratulations to Jovita Cozean for being named the "East Haddam Senior Citizen of the Year".
2. Jo Golec will send letter to the town Selectman to request the following people be re-appointed to COA: Alice Sabo, Jovita Cozean, Rosalie Hoffman plus 2 alternates: Mary Ellen Klinck & Suzanne Bostelman.
3. Jo Golec suggested the COA meet every other month; would not violate bylaws or ordinances. Rosalie Hoffman commented that a special meeting could always be called if needed. Jo Golec explained that we would skip the June meeting, meet in July. This schedule would eliminate the December meeting which is a tough time of year to meet. Jo Golec asked for motion to accept, Jim O'Brien offered a motion, Rosalie Hoffman seconded, all in favor.
4. Brad Parker reported on the need for "helping seniors in need". Recent phone calls have illuminated the need to reach out to seniors in the community who are alone. Two issues: one, to combat loneliness, need a "friendly visit/chat". The second, to provide transportation to

doctor, grocery store, etc. East Haddam is on the outskirts of the state service organizations; we need a “fall back” plan when such organizations cannot assist us. Jo Golec asked how to proceed. Committee decided that each member would think about this issue & be prepared to discuss at July meeting. Brad Parker will look into liability issues when transporting citizens in private car.

5. Jim O’Brien inquired about the huge rock at Heritage Park. Brad explained that a plaque will eventually be mounted on the stone. Perennials will be planted along with Elephant Ear plants. By the way, the votech-ag students will be at the Senior Center next week to prune and mulch.

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

1. Attendance increased for the month of April. Three very busy events.
2. Blood Drive at the Center: May 29th, 1:30 – 6:15 pm
3. Bus Driver Ed Gubbins will be on vacation May 30th – June 18th. Darlene Dunbar will fill in. Has all required licenses, is a Red Cross volunteer driver.
4. Senior Resources rep is meeting with Brad to discuss their services: May 23rd.
5. Upcoming Events:
 - June 9th: Photography discussion: 1:30 pm
 - July 24th: Medical decisions/end of life: 1:30 pm
 - August 16th: flea market/tag sale: fundraiser. 8 am – 2 pm. Vendors needed. Space \$10

Other Business: Jo Golec thanked officers for their service this past year. New officers will begin term at July meeting. No June meeting. Jo Golec will inform John Pagnani about the new meeting schedule and inquire as to his availability for the coming year.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am on motion by Rosalie Hoffman; seconded by Jim O’Brien.

Respectfully Submitted: Susannah Griffin