

## Commission on Aging (COA)

### Minutes from July 24, 2014 Meeting

**Call to Order:** 10:35 am by Chairwoman Jovita Cozean

**Present:** Suzanne Bostelman, Jovita Cozean, Jo Golec, Rosalie Hoffman, Jim O'Brien, John Pagnani, Brad Parker, Vicki Riley-Pach, Alice Sabo

**Absent:** MaryEllen Klinck, Ernie Malavasi: all excused

**Secretary's Report:** Accepted on motion by Alice Sabo, seconded by Jim O'Brien

**Treasurer's Report:** Fund 52 Account: \$5,542.33

**Correspondence:** Jo Golec has not yet received response from town Selectman requesting the following people be re-appointed to COA: Alice Sabo, Jovita Cozean, Rosalie Hoffman plus 2 alternates: MaryEllen Klinck & Suzanne Bostelman.

**Chairwoman's Report:** No report

**Citizens' Concerns:** None

#### **Old Business:**

Presentation by Craig Mansfield, Manager, East Haddam Emergency Management Call System.

1. The system can text, email, or call
2. Calls would be made at a set time every day. Seniors would then choose a response. Typically, the choices are: "OK", "Call Me"
3. Craig can set up the system to do anything: ask any question & get any answer. Very flexible. He can set up the initial database.
4. No cost to add this program to the town's existing alert system.
5. Seniors would have to register for and be educated about the system.
6. The number on caller ID would be the Senior Center number.
7. Multiple attempts can be made.
8. Town already handles residents who have medical issues i.e. need electricity.
9. Start off with a small test group.
10. The real concern is those seniors/disabled, many live alone, who do not live at Oak Grove, which already has an alert system & a generator.
11. The police cannot be first responders to automated alerts because 99% will be false calls.
12. Senior Center needs to develop a response protocol (call tree, responders' actions, etc.), maintain the database, and provide man-power.

Ideas/suggestions/comments of the group:

1. Need volunteers to be first responders during the week and the weekend
2. Provide sticker for the phone to remind seniors about the daily calls
3. Need procedure for seniors to notify us if will not be home at the time of the call

4. Develop a marketing plan to get the word out for seniors to register
5. Set up registration table at various events around town
6. Senior Center can present the program to local groups: Lions, Rotary, etc.
7. Registration can also be done on-line.
8. Send registration form with absentee ballot? This allowed?
9. Does town have a database of residents 60 years and older? Voter rolls?
10. HIPAA not an issue because people are self-identifying & medical info not requested
11. Perhaps get list of names from local agencies
12. Does this program exist in any other town? Craig will look into this.

Subgroup will meet again to decide on criteria & questions to be asked: Rosalie Hoffman, Vicky Riley-Pach, MaryEllen Klinck, John Pagnani.

**New Business:**

1. Brad Parker explained a new septic regulation issued by the state health department to protect the environment requiring a "permit to discharge". Septics must be pumped at least once every 5 years. Pumpers/contractors will send results to the Chatham Health District who will send home owner a bill for \$30. If repairs are necessary, CHD will inspect while the repairs are made.

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

1. Attendance has steadily increased over the past few months. Weather dependent. Muggy days, fewer walkers on the path. More action in exercise room and Tai Chi and Pilates.
2. Vicky Riley-Pach asked if path use had increased. Yes, said Brad, but the path is not part of the Senior Center.
3. Brad will attend Entertainment Showcase, looking for acts to hire. Alice Sabo will attend also.
4. Friendship Tours is hosting a seminar as well to promote their projects/trips.
5. Buttonwood Farms trip was yesterday. Our seniors were on the news!
6. Game night was July 15th. 25 attendees. Served pizza.
7. Planning an evening game night for bingo in the fall.
8. Upcoming Events:
  - August 7th: Hearing Screening
  - August 14th: Newport Surf & Turf: Lunch, Play, & Cabaret trip
  - August 16th: flea market/tag sale: fundraiser. 8 am – 2 pm. Space \$10
  - August 19th: Game Night
  - August 24th: Lions BBQ for Seniors noon – 2:00
  - September 11th: Newport Lighthouse Tour & lunch
  - September 24th: Picnic & Pot Luck at Sr. Center: National Senior Center Month
  - October 18th: Pumpkin Festival, New Hampshire

**Next Meeting:** September 25, 2014

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am on motion by Jo Golec; seconded by Jim O'Brien.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Susannah Griffin