

## Commission on Aging (COA) Minutes from 1/23/14 Meeting

**Call to Order:** at 10:30 am by Chairwoman Jo Golec.

**Present:** Alice Sabo, Suzanne Bostelman, Rosalie Hoffman arrived 11:00, Jovita Cozean, Jo Golec, Vicky Riley-Pach, Jim O'Brien, Brad Parker

**Absent:** John Pagnani, Mary Ellen Klinck, Ernie Malavasi – all excused

**Secretary's Report:** Accepted as read by Susannah Griffin on a motion by Jo Golec, seconded by Jim O'Brien, and accepted by all.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. Jim O'Brien reported "no change" to Fund 52.
2. Jo Golec reported that Brad Parker has made a request to purchase a new cabinet with built in safe/lock box. Would cost between \$500.00 - \$1000.00. Jovita Cozean responded that it is long overdue. Jim O'Brien pointed out that it should be adequately rated for fire protection. Alice Sabo commented that years ago, only permitted \$100.00 to be in office; then purchased lock box, but it is not secure. Brad Parker mentioned that it is not practical to keep the present cabinet locked; too much use all day long. Jo Golec asked for vote on the measure. Suzanne Bostleman motioned to accept the measure, Jovita Cozean seconded. All favored the motion.

### **Chairwoman's Report:**

1. John Pagnani is absent due to new job. He will notify COA in 2 months regarding his availability to remain on the COA.
2. Todd Walters has passed away.
3. Regarding the minutes of the COA meetings:
  - a. Within 7 days of the meeting, minutes must be available for review and must be filed with the Town Clerk.
  - b. Archived minutes: years 2011, 2012, 2013 are in the file cabinet at the Senior Center. Prior years are located at Town Office and are on-line.

### **Old Business:**

1. Elderly Tax Relief Program: Jo Golec passed out copies of the ordinance "TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED IN THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM". Jo pointed out the sections concerning qualifications for tax relief, qualifying income, limits on tax relief as well as the attached application for "SENIOR HOMEOWNERS TAX BENEFIT". Ms. Patty Veselak, Town Hall, will be happy to sit down with applicants to complete the application. Jo Golec mentioned that according to Mary Ellen Klinck, \$60,000 of the \$150,000 was allotted last year.
2. Brad Parker reported that the email distribution list for the Senior Center Newsletter as well as emergency alerts, both safety and medical, is growing slowly. The Senior Center Registration form now includes a request for an email address.

3. Alice Sabo reported that as of 10 days ago, Nathan Hale Pharmacy is still not a preferred pharmacy according *ConnectiCare*. Pharmacist Jack Hermann is positive that it will all work out. Alice will continue to follow up and apprise Brad Parker of the situation.

**New Business:**

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

1. December monthly overall attendance numbers were down in December. Many cancelations due to weather and holiday distractions.
2. The monthly attendance report has been tweaked a little. Adjusting categories to better explain the usage of the Center. "Special Events" refers to 'in house' social events, "Community Services" reflects those applying for fuel assistance, receiving tax counseling, attending driver safety classes, etc.
3. February newsletter: Promotion to 'build up' lunch numbers: first time attendees will eat for free.
4. Bus to lunch/Thursdays: has been advertised for two months in Senior Newsletter and *Patch*; no takers thus far.
5. Form #5: federal lunch program; will be filled out for all new participants in the lunch program, as required by federal regulations.
6. Following events are scheduled:
  - a. Pot Luck Supper: January 27th
  - b. Blood Drive: January 30th
  - c. Souper Bowl: January 31st
  - d. Lifeline Alert System Seminar after Sr. Club Meeting: February 10th
  - e. Special Valentine's Luncheon/High School Jazz Band/Chamber Choir: February 14<sup>th</sup>
  - f. Speaker John Pagnani: Memory: February 27<sup>th</sup>
  - g. Warner Theatre: Play: Love, Sex and the IRS: March 9<sup>th</sup>
  - h. Pancake Breakfast: March 16<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Newport Dinner Train: April 17<sup>th</sup>
7. Discussion regarding events:
  - a. Pancake Breakfast: conflicts/competition on this date. Perhaps change to April. Problem: Listed in the February Newsletter.
  - b. Regarding the Warner Theatre Play: \$\$ is due soon!

**Citizen's Concerns:**

1. Alice Sabo is concerned about electric bills that have "gone through the roof". She has researched her own situation quite thoroughly. Recommends seminar for citizens. Vicky Riley Pach suggested that an industry speaker be invited to educate people regarding the electric utility choices.
2. Suzanne Bostleman explained a Publisher's Clearing House scam.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am on a motion by Alice Sabo, seconded by Jovita Cozean.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Susannah Griffin