



TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging

95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow

Colchester Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 8, 2013 - Colchester Town Hall

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

Nancy A. Bray

2013 JUL -9 PM 2:23

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Members Present: Marilyn Finnegan, Jean Stawicki, Betty Ann Oppelt, Goldie Liverant, Gary Siddell, Rob Gustafson, Joe Menhart

Members Absent: Chairperson Rose Levine

Others Present: Patty Watts

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Gary Siddell at 8:34 a.m.
- 2. Minutes:** M. Finnegan motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of 6/10/13. G. Liverant seconded. All others voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. B. Oppelt, R. Gustafson and J. Menhart abstained.
- 3. Introduction of New Director:** Patty Watts was introduced to the Commission. She briefly spoke about her background.
- 4. Financial Report:** J. Menhart reported that the daily transportation for June was \$210 and the trips were \$45 totaling \$255. The year-to-date total collected is \$3,617.00.
- 5. Chairman's Report:** G. Siddell reported that the Board of Selectmen would like the current wording of the town ordinances and the recommended wording of the town ordinances for the Commission on Aging to be forwarded to them with the changes highlighted. J. Stawicki volunteered to handle this. Gary also reported that he met with the First Selectman regarding utilizing the Commission on Aging as a support and advisory group. The group will invite Mr. Schuster to a meeting to talk about concerns and questions. Members also discussed moving the meeting place to senior housing areas around town as well as back to the senior center. The September meeting will be held at Dublin Village, 300 Lebanon Avenue in the brick building in the center of the village. Gary also related that the Commission on Aging website is now up to date.
- 6. Senior Center Director's Report:** P. Watts reported that she is impressed with the wonderful seniors she has met so far. She will be hosting a monthly 'getting to know you' town hall style event. She is looking forward to making some low to no cost changes to the building to make it more welcoming such as updating the front of the building, rearranging and updating the hallway décor and reconfiguring three of the rooms. She hopes to be completed and ready to roll-out for a December holiday event. Other items Patty is looking at are the newsletter, the lunch program and sign-in procedures. She is also interested in increasing the variety of programs, including occasional evening or weekend scheduling as well as baby boomer friendly venues. She also talked about the making memories program and its funding. There was discussion regarding grand funding vs. municipal funding and

revenue producing programming. Priscilla's last day before retirement is August 1st. There will be a special program at 12:30 in her honor preceded by a luncheon at noon. Please sign up at the center for the luncheon beforehand. She will continue with her line dancing classes as well as a per diem driver.

- 7. Presentation of Program Coordinator Job Description:** P. Watts presented proposed job description for Priscilla's position. J. Stawicki motioned to approve and recommend the job description to the Board of Selectmen. B. Oppelt seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 8. Status of Senior Center Building Condition:** P. Watts discussed in her report and also stated that the veteran's room is open again.
- 9. Senior/Community Center Building Committee Update:** G. Liverant reported that the building committee is beginning to work on educating citizens for the referendum. Their July meetings will be on the 11th and 25th at 7 pm at town hall.
- 10. Discuss Focus of Commission on Aging:** The group discussed becoming involved in other departments or commissions in town. Currently, R. Gustafson is on the Housing Authority, G. Liverant reports on the Building Committee, J. Menhart attends AARP meetings, R. Coyle is liaison from the Board of Selectmen, and M. Finnegan and G. Siddell will share Board of Finance. They talked about state and federal level boards and commissions. They also discussed submitting a budget to the Board of Selectmen and Finance.
- 11. Old Business:** No items were reported.
- 12. New Business:** TRIAD, which is made up of the senior center director, law enforcement and local businesses, should begin meeting again now that Patty has been hired and a new trooper is or will be in place. They are proactive in educating seniors about services available to them such as reverse 911, yellow dot etc. There is concern regarding seniors that haven't been identified as needing assistance in an emergency.
- 13. Adjournment:** J. Menhart motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m. J. Stawicki seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle Komoroski