



# TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging  
95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, Connecticut 06415  
(860) 537-3911  
*Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*

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## Colchester Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

### Monday, July 14, 2014 - Colchester Senior Center

**Members Present:** Chair Gary Siddell, Jean Stawicki, Rose Levine, Rob Gustafson, Goldie Liverant, Joe Menhart, Susan Choma

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Patty Watts, Rosemary Coyle, Mary Tomasi, Art Shilosky, Stan Soby

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Chair G. Siddell called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.
- 2. Possible Seating of Alternate:** S. Choma was seated as a voting member to fill an open position.
- 3. Minutes:** J. Stawicki motioned to accept the June 16, 2014 special meeting minutes. R. Levine seconded. J. Menhart and S. Choma abstained. All other members present voted in favor.  
MOTION CARRIED.
- 4. Financial Report:** P. Watts reported that June daily transportation collected \$285.26 and out of town trips collected \$25 for a monthly total of \$310.26. This brings the YTD total to \$3,042.26.
- 5. Chairman's Report:** G. Siddell reported that D. Swenson is moving and has resigned which now leaves a full member and an alternate position open. He also reported that he met with First Selectman Stan Soby to discuss future direction of Commission. They discussed the physical location and programming and how that will be affected by the fast growing senior population.
- 6. Senior Center Director's Report:** P. Watts reported that they were awarded the DOT medical transportation grant of \$33,320 and she's waiting for word on the grant that funds the memories program. The Eagle Scout candidate is continuing to work on the room separation project and another candidate is planning a project to paint, clean up ceiling and install wainscoting in the office. The Patriotic Picnic was a great success as an intergenerational effort with Youth Services. The Live Well Workshops have begun and will run through August 13. There was also a fun intergenerational bingo held last week with campers from Christ Lutheran Church. A program entitled "Understanding Medications and Their Interactions" will be held today and a smart driving course will be held Friday. A Luau Beach Party will be held on July 29<sup>th</sup> at noon and a fundraising golf tournament will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> to benefit the senior center. A dinner will follow at St. Joseph's Polish Club. Registration forms are available. Upcoming trips include a Thimble Island Cruise, Foxwoods Casino, Polka at the Aqua Turf, *Wicked* at the Bushnell and a Fall Foliage Train & Riverboat Ride. June statistics were: Attendance: 1,121 and Transports: 1,079 over 22 days of operation. 112 Bistro and special meals served, 113 Community Café meals served, 352 Meals-on-Wheels delivered and 13 new members registered for a YTD total of 55 new members. TRIAD is meeting tomorrow, 7/15. They have secured sponsorship from the Colchester Housing Authority, Colchester Rotary and Colchester Business Association for the File of Life kits and are still waiting for one more response.
- 7. Status Update on Commission on Aging Changes to Town Ordinance:** G. Siddell will send an email to First Selectman's office requesting this be added to their agenda.

- 8. Status Update on Senior Resource Guide:** G. Siddell is still looking into getting sponsorship to print. Cost is estimated at \$750 for 1,000 guides. It is published on both the Commission on Aging and the Senior Center websites.
- 9. Presentation on Building a Low Cost Senior Center:** P. Watts showed the first half of a slideshow put together by John Catlin, an architect from New Hampshire who specializes in building senior centers (not necessarily low cost). It detailed steps to plan a center specific to your community from committee development to geographical placement. Discussion followed regarding what the Commission can do to have information ready for when it is needed with accreditation as an end goal. R. Coyle reported that the subcommittee formed to decide what to do about the current building is still waiting for some reports. Since the decision was not made by the fiscal year-end, the building will be rented from Bacon Academy Board of Trustees for the next year. Once all of their requested information has been received, they will make final recommendations after performing a cost analysis of renovating vs. rebuilding, lease vs. purchase, etc.
- 10. Old Business:** No items were reported.
- 11. New Business:** P. Watts asked for volunteers to meet with her to develop policies and procedures for the senior center. G. Siddell, S. Choma and J. Stawicki volunteered. Once in place, Patty is looking forward to reaching out to senior communities in town to educate them on happenings at the center.
- 12. Citizen's Comments:** None reported.
- 13. Adjournment:** J. Stawicki motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 a.m. G. Liverant seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michelle Komoroski