



TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging
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Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow

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TOWN CLERK

Colchester Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2014 - Colchester Senior Center

Members Present: Chairperson Rose Levine, Jean Stawicki, Goldie Liverant, Gary Siddell, Rob Gustafson, Susan Choma

Members Absent: Joe Menhart

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

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair R. Levine at 8:32 a.m.
- 2. Minutes:** G. Siddell motioned to approve the regular meeting minutes of 2/10/14 with the following changes: In item #5, Dr. Matyl should be spelled Dr. Motyl, and in item #6, it should say 24 senior centers were *accredited* by NCOA. J. Stawicki seconded. R. Gustafson and S. Choma abstained. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 3. Financial Report:** P. Watts reported that February daily transportation collected \$317 and out of town trips collected \$106. This brings the YTD total to \$1,875.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** R. Levine thanked Jean, Rob and Gary for vetting numbers for the senior resource guide. She is working on the format now. It will include a disclaimer regarding for-profit businesses.
- 5. Senior Center Director's Report:** P. Watts reported that the proposed budget currently includes \$10,000 for the divider wall in the library and \$16,000 per the Board of Selectmen for building rental. The \$4,500 for the senior center tracking program was cut. The Eagle Scout candidate has met his financial goals and is completing paperwork to gain approval to move forward with the project. There was a roof leak last month and the center had to be closed for a day for repairs that were performed by an outside contractor. Ceiling tiles fell in the cafeteria and water leaked into the ladies room. There was a wonderful Mardi Gras program last week and the corned beef & cabbage dinner for today is almost sold out. On March 12th a registered dietician will present 'Cooking for One', on March 17th a representative from Interim Healthcare will present 'The Ins & Outs of Home Care' and there will be a trip on March 19th to Hall High in West Hartford for a Pops & Jazz concert. At 6pm on March 20th, the president of Landmark Tours will host a slideshow and itinerary of the scheduled 'Treasures of Ireland' trip. This is a 9 day international trip planned for the end of September and is open to anyone 18 and over. It is also a fundraiser for the senior center. Steve is on vacation for the month of March and 3 people are scheduled to cover the Making Memories program in his absence. The fitness class payments have been revamped. Prepaid cards are available for \$25 for 10 classes. This change has been well received. The bingo groups are aligning and there have been discussions on how to make

these changes. Patty has asked the director of the Enfield senior center to mentor her. Enfield is one of 8 accredited senior centers in the state. The Subaru Legacy is now usable. Attendance in February was 692 for 17 days of operation. (There was no transportation, meals or programming on the 3rd, the center was closed on the 5th, 13th and 14th due to snow/leaks and no transportation on the 18th.) There were 768 transports, 82 bistro & special meals served and 95 café meals and 341 meals on wheels delivered. February brought 12 new members for a year to date total of 16. TRIAD was cancelled in February due to snow and there will be no meeting in March due to a scheduling conflict.

- 6. New Senior Center Building Update:** Rosemary reported that she motioned to form a bipartisan committee made up of the First Selectman and 1 other Selectmen and 2 members of the Board of Finance to enter into negotiations with the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees for the possible purchase of the senior center building and associated property and to make a recommendation to both boards by the end of the fiscal year. The motion was approved unanimously. There was discussion regarding this purchase and how it could affect the senior center.
- 7. Discussion on Strategic Marketing Plan:** G. Siddell reported that someone at a town meeting said that the senior center only serves 20 people. There is clearly a need to get information out to the public about the center, who it served and what it offers. Patty's strategy is threefold: publishing the statistics, especially new membership; advertising upcoming special events; publicizing events after the fact. Discussion ensued regarding the best way to do this including newspapers, email blasts and possibly Facebook.

R. Gustafson left the meeting.

Art Shilosky suggested that the center should let boards know of their future needs, including projecting for the future, whether for the existing building or a new one. If they have that information, they can pass on to an architect who designs senior centers when the time comes. Agreement among members was to wait until budget season is over and the school project is firmed up.
- 8. Senior Services Department Mission Statement:** G. Siddell motioned to recommend to Board of Selectmen to support the age of 55 as the low end cut-off for senior center membership. S. Choma seconded. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. G. Siddell motioned to endorse the mission statement as written, "It is the mission of the Colchester Senior Services Department to support older adults in their desire to age optimally by providing programs and services designed to promote their independence, health, wellness and overall quality of life.", and the Departmental Description, "The Colchester Senior Center is a social, educational, recreational and wellness resource center for older adults, serving senior citizens, aged 55 years and over. We provide an array of programs, classes and special events to meet the needs, abilities and interests of those we serve; information and referrals for local and state resources; local and out-of-town transportation services; meaningful volunteer opportunities and a nutritionally-balanced hot lunch program served daily." R. Levine seconded. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 9. Old Business:** No items were reported.
- 10. New Business:** G. Siddell motioned to add an item to the agenda: Concern regarding political makeup of the Commission on Aging. G. Liverant seconded. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Concern Regarding Political Makeup of the Commission on Aging: The First Selectman sent a memo to R. Levine stating that per State Statute Sec. 9-167a, Minority Representation, the Commission is in violation as no more than two-thirds of the total members can be enrolled in the same political party. Right now, the Commission is made up of 6 Democrats and 1 Republican. There can be no more than 5 members of the same political party. There was discussion regarding how this was allowed to happen. J. Stawicki moved to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to move S. Choma from full member to alternate position with regret. R. Levine seconded. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. This will leave 5 Democrats, 1 Republican and 1 empty full member slot, which will need to be filled with a Republican. As an alternate, S. Choma will be able to fill in and vote for any absent member at meetings.

12. Citizen's Comments: No items were reported.

13. Adjournment: J. Stawicki motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 a.m. G. Siddell seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle Komoroski