



# TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging

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*Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*

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TOWN CLERK

## Colchester Commission on Aging Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 16, 2014 - Colchester Senior Center

**Members Present:** Rose Levine, Gary Siddell, Jean Stawicki, Rob Gustafson, Goldie Liverant, Dani Swenson

**Members Absent:** Joe Menhart, Susan Choma

**Others Present:** Patty Watts, Mary Tomasi, Art Shilosky

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** R. Levine called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
- 2. Possible Seating of Alternate:** No action taken.
- 3. Minutes:** R. Gustafson motioned to accept the May 12, 2014 amended meeting minutes. J. Stawicki seconded. All other members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- 4. Financial Report:** P. Watts reported that May daily transportation collected \$108 and out of town trips collected \$172 for a monthly total of \$280. This brings the YTD total to \$2,732.
- 5. Chairman's Report:** R. Levine reported that the publicity campaign is going well with a weekly newspaper presence. She will submit a letter to the editor regarding the Senior Resource Guide for this week. The budget did not pass again so there will be a special town meeting tomorrow, 6/17 at town hall at 7 pm to send the budget with the new cuts to referendum. The referendum will take place next Tuesday, 6/24 at town hall. The budget includes a line item this year for rent of the current senior center building that will give the town more time to analyze the purchase of the building. The senior center has the smallest increase percentage of any department in town.
- 6. Senior Center Director's Report:** P. Watts congratulated the Commission on the publication of the Senior Resource Guide. She has already begun to distribute. She discussed the budget failure also and stated that the center had not been affected yet and is hoping this one will pass so they won't see cuts that may affect staff. She received about 50 responses to the senior survey and has gleaned some useful feedback. The Eagle Scout candidate has completed and delivered 3 of the 10 storage units. Patty would like to establish a decorating committee so participants can have a say in decisions made regarding the décor of the center and Commission members agreed this is a great initiative. The center raised \$525 at their tag sale. The scam presentation was great as was the trip to the butterfly pavilion in Norwich. Today's Father's Day brunch is sold out at 30 tickets. Ginny will be celebrated on 6/23 at 1 pm for her 20 years of driving for the senior center. The Summer Kickoff Barbeque will be held on 6/25 and will feature Justin Chandler, a country music artist. The center is partnering with Marlborough Health and Rehab for a healthy cooking demonstration on Monday 6/30 at 11 am. There is a new fitness instructor, Anne Beauregard, and the contract with the current Zumba instructor has been extended as there's a lot of excitement about her class. The instructor for the Making Memories program is taking a sabbatical for the summer so there will be per diem staff covering until he returns in September. The Board of Selectmen has given permission for a golf tournament to be held on 8/9 to raise funds for the senior center. There will be a dinner at St. Joseph Polish Club following and tickets for just the dinner are available as well for non-golfers. There will be lots of great door prizes as well. A free, 6-week Live Well Workshop for people facing chronic disease will be held in July and August. There

will be a Q&A session for the workshop on 6/24 at the center at 1 pm. May statistics were: Attendance: 1,036 and Transports: 1,240 over 21 days of operation. 90 Bistro and special meals served, 101 Community Café meals served, 404 Meals-on-Wheels delivered and 3 new members registered for a YTD total of 42 new members. TRIAD is meeting tomorrow, 6/17. They are looking for sponsorship for File of Life kits. These are magnets that attach to a refrigerator and detail emergency information such as contacts, medical history and insurance for EMT/Fire/Police. Their goal is for every senior in town to receive a kit. They also publish a safety related article for the monthly newsletter.

7. **Discussion on Senior Center Building Next Steps:** P. Watts has a presentation on building a low cost senior center that she will show at the July meeting. They discussed the need to develop a strategic long term plan for a new center and how to bring awareness to the issue as the current center no longer meets the needs of the seniors.
8. **Status Update on Commission on Aging Changes to Town Ordinance:** G. Siddell reported that the word 'and' needs to be used in item 18-15G and he is meeting with S. Soby to finalize for presentation at a future town meeting.
9. **Status Update on Senior Resource Guide:** G. Siddell reported that the guide has been published online and they are looking for sponsors to print. In the meantime, the Commission on Aging website has been updated and he is working with the IT department to get email addresses to work. For now, any funds raised for printing will be run through the senior center budget.
10. **Presentation and Vote on New Commission on Aging Officers:** J. Stawicki presented nominations as follows: G. Siddell, Chair; J. Stawicki, Vice-Chair; D. Swenson, Secretary and G. Levine, Treasurer. R. Gustafson motioned to move slate forward as presented. G. Siddell seconded. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. G. Siddell thanked R. Levine for her 3 years of serving as Chairperson of the Commission stating that she created great opportunity and leadership.
11. **Adjournment:** G. Liverant motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 a.m. J. Stawicki seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michelle Komoroski