

# TOWN OF COLCHESTER

*Commission on Aging*

95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, Connecticut 06415

(860) 537-3911

*Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*

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*Payle Furman*  
PAYLE FURMAN  
TOWN CLERK

## Colchester Commission on Aging Special Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 30, 2015 - Colchester Town Hall

**Members Present:** Chair Gary Siddell, Jean Stawicki, Goldie Liverant, Rob Gustafson, Rose Levine, Ellie Phillips, Marjorie Mlodzinski

**Members Absent:** Marion Stanavage, Jennifer Raybern DeHay

**Others Present:** Patty Watts, Stan Soby, Amy Marks

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** G. Siddell called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Citizen's Comments:** None
3. **Discuss Complaint Received by Commission on Aging:** G. Siddell explained that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss 1.) the role of the Commission as outlined in the Senior Center Policy & Procedures and 2.) how to address the complaint (see attached). He added that the Commission is not in a position to change or administer policy. Currently, the Senior Center Director and First Selectman are in receipt of the complaint and are working on a response. The group discussed that, per the Policies & Procedures, the Commission on Aging should only be contacted if and when a complaint has not been satisfactorily addressed by the Director of Senior Services. As that has not happened yet, the group decided to notify the complainant that the complaint had been received and that they will follow the Policies & Procedures thereby allowing the Senior Center Director a chance to respond first. P. Watts and First Selectman Soby provided some background on the complaint and the transportation issue stating that they work very hard to make the most of what is available to serve the largest amount of people. The priority is providing medical transportation to independently functioning adults, age 55 and older. As the demand grows, the support remains the same. Amy Marks from the Department of Transportation shared that the 5310 grant Colchester receives supports a majority of the transportation provided by the senior center and is available only for municipalities and not-for-profit organizations. R. Levine related concerns with the liability associated with transporting someone who resides at a nursing facility. G. Siddell added this is a good opportunity to add wording to clarify the policy now that new information has come to light. There was also discussion on additional funds available at the state level and how best to access and disburse those funds. P. Watts said she will share the resolution when it's available and will cc the Commissioner as well.
4. **Citizen's Comments:** None
5. **Adjournment:** J. Stawicki motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 p.m. M. Mlodzinski seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle Komoroski*

Michelle Komoroski

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the residents at Harrington Court, I am writing this inquiry.

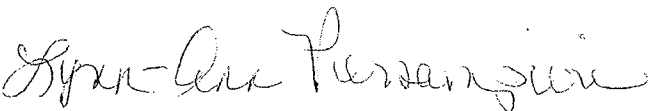
We, the residents of Resident Council at Harrington Court Genesis Health Care Center are writing to you about transportation. The Senior Bus to be exact.

We live in Colchester, many of us our whole lives. Many of us have graduated from Bacon Academy, belonged to the library, shopped in the shops/stores, have dined-out in the restaurants, played/spectator at the Recreation Fields, we've belonged to one of the many civic groups, churches or synagogue and the Senior Center.

We live in Colchester, only now we live at Harrington Court Genesis Health Care Center and because of that we are excluded from the Senior Bus. Why? Harrington Court Genesis Health Care Center is one of the larger tax payers in Colchester, but, the people that live there are being discriminated against. Why?

We live in Colchester, and would like to shop in town, eat in town, go to a matinee, visit the library, go to a place of worship the possibilities are aplenty. We are not looking to monopolize the Senior Bus. We are just looking to be included in the outings that the Senior Center offers along with around town/out of town outings that any resident of Colchester is entitled to.

We live in Colchester, please treat us like citizens of this wonderful town. Thank you for looking into this matter.

Respectfully,   
Lynn Ann Persampieri, Vice President of Resident Council  
and the Resident Council of Harrington Court



— Growing Older Together —

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Hartford, CT 06105  
Telephone: (860) 424-5274  
Toll Free: 1-866-218-6631  
Website: [www.ct.gov/aging](http://www.ct.gov/aging)  
Email: [aging.sda@ct.gov](mailto:aging.sda@ct.gov)

October 15, 2015

Lynn Ann Persampiere, Vice President  
Harrington Court Resident Council  
Harrington Court  
59 Harrington Court  
Colchester, CT 06415

Dear Ms. Persampiere and the Resident Council,

While I was at the VOICES forum last week in Southington, I was given your letter concerning transportation for the residents of Harrington Court. It is my understanding you are asking for two things: the opportunity to utilize the Colchester Town Senior Bus in the same way as other residents of the town, and that the Colchester Senior Center include you in the outings they offer residents of the town.

You may also know that the previous week I was contacted by, and had a direct meeting with, Kathy Russi. As I explained to Ms. Russi, the services offered by the Colchester Senior Center are under the purview of the Town of Colchester, and they are not sponsored by or funded through the State Department on Aging. This includes the Senior Bus. I encourage you to bring your request to the Senior Center and to the Colchester Commission on Aging. I will forward a copy of your letter and my reply to the Commission. I understand from Ms. Russi that transportation is difficult in Colchester, and that there is no public transportation for you to use, making it particularly difficult for you to get out.

Thank you for your letter. I wish you success in your pursuit of transportation for the residents of Harrington Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth B. Ritter".

Elizabeth B. Ritter  
Commissioner

cc: Garry Siddell, Chair, Colchester Commission on Aging, 127 Norwich Road, Colchester CT 06415

