



# TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging  
95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, Connecticut 06415  
(860) 537-3911

*Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*

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*Boyle Furman*  
BOYLE FURMAN  
TOWN CLERK

## Colchester Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes Monday, November 9, 2015 – Colchester Senior Center

Members Present: Chair Gary Siddell, Goldie Liverant, Rob Gustafson, Ellie Phillips, Jennifer Raybern DeHay, Marjorie Mlodzinski, Jean Stawicki

Members Absent: Rose Levine, Marion Stanavage

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

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** G. Siddell called the meeting to order at 8:32 p.m.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** G. Siddell seated two alternates in lieu of two member's absences.
3. **Financial Report:** P. Watts reported for month ending 10/2/2015: daily transportation collected \$179.29; out of town trips collected \$195.00; for a monthly total of \$274.29 and year to date total of \$1119.81.
4. **Chairman's Report:** G. Siddell reported that he attended round table discussion for regional senior issues hosted by East Hampton CoA for Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Portland and Columbia. All other towns in attendance at the conference had a program budget from their towns. G. Siddell reported that Colchester CoA had asked for \$800 in this year's budget but all of it had been cut. This is a huge problem for the commission. He said the Lion's Club has given the CoA \$300 this year. A. Shilosky said that the Lion's Club is starting a new year and the commission should make sure to fill out an application for this coming year's funds. E. Phillips said that UConn has a speaker's bureau and supplies free speakers to organizations. The outreach members of the CoA who sat at Stop & Shop at a table to raise awareness of the CoA this last weekend raised \$161.00+. E. Phillips said that she had photographs that she had done there and there were also Christmas cards for sale.
5. **Senior Center Director's Report:** P. Watts reported that the Energy Assistance Report had begun with the first delivery beginning 11/10 this year. The Enhanced Benefits Check-Ups Program sponsored by SE Regional Senior Centers to screen people for eligibility based upon income was suspended as of 11/1 for a lack of funding. She and others were looking for alternate sources of funding because of the benefits generated by the program. The Sr. Center has scheduled two open enrollment events for health care plans to coincide with the health care open enrollment period. The Flu Vaccine Program held at the Sr. Center sponsored by Rite Aid has concluded and it served 33 people. The Sr. Center is planning for the Holiday Fair and Open House to be held 11/21 9 am. – 2 pm. and is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Sr. Center. The Sr. Center is creating a digital catalogue of the gift baskets to send to various different groups to give more people the opportunity to see the gift baskets and then to purchase raffle tickets for the baskets. On 11/10 the Sr. Center will be closed so that the entire Sr. Center staff can participate in Mental Health First Aid Training, for which there has been found to be an increasing need. See list of additional report items.
6. **Minutes:** R. Gustafson moved that the minutes of the meeting of 10/13/2015 be approved as read. J. Stawicki seconded. G. Siddell abstained. All other members voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. J. Stawicki moved that the minutes of the Special Meeting of 10/30/2015 be approved as read. M. Mlodzinski seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.
7. **Discussion of Complaint:** P. Watts reported that further research is showing that Federal law will not allow public funds for private for profit transportation. P. Watts will be responding to the complaint.
8. **Senior Resource Guide:** G. Siddell reports that R. Levine has been working on the Guide and needs help.
9. **Status of Strategic Team Planning Meetings:** G. Siddell reports that he will not be able to attend. P. Watts reports that the team is looking at physical space requirements with the goal to make recommendations for building out a new senior center. The recommendations would currently go to the Senior Center Subcommittee made up of two members of the Board of Selectmen, two from the Board of Finance and two from the CoA. P. Watts reports that they are looking at the current building and

determining the programs and space taken by the current programs and also determining what programs they cannot have which they would want to have.

10. **Community Outreach Initiative:** Results reported in Chairman's Report. Thank you to all involved.
11. **Review of 2016 Meeting Dates, Location and Year-End Housekeeping:** Changed November meeting date to 11/14. Motion made by E. Phillips to accept meeting dates as submitted by Michelle Komoroski with the change in November with the time and place at 8:30am at the Sr. Center. Seconded by M. Mlodzinski. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.  
Budget and annual report need to be done for year end. E. Phillips and M. Mlodzinski have agreed to meet with G. Siddell to accomplish.  
Commission members term expiration dates:  
G. Siddell – 12/1/2015  
J. Stawicki – 12/1/2015  
R. Levine – 12/31/2015  
Town clerk, G. Furman, needs a letter from all expiring members who wish to be reappointed to the CoA. The next B. of Selectmen's meeting is 11/19, at which time the reappointments will be decided upon. R. Coyle will work to streamline the process so that reappointed members can be sworn in prior to 12/1/2015.
12. **Old Business:** None.
13. **New Business:** None.
14. **Citizens Comments:** None.
15. **Adjournment:** Motion made by E. Phillips at 9:42 am. G. Liverant seconded. All voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Jean Stawicki

## COA Meeting-November 9, 2015

Energy Assistance Program began September 15<sup>th</sup>. First day of deliverable fuel will be November 10<sup>th</sup> this year.

Enhanced Benefits Check Up: Update

Flu Vaccination Clinics with Rite Aid: served 33 clients

Holiday Fair & Open House: Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

November 10: CSC will be closed for an All Staff Training on Mental Aid First Aid, increase of members with apparent mental health issues, which make clients difficult to serve.

November 11: CSC closed for Veterans Day

### Programs:

- 11/9-Veterans Day Program
- 11/12-Hearing Health Presentation
- 11/13 & 12/4-Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- 11/16-Facebook Basics (BA Students)
- 11/17-Harvest Bingo with friends from Youth Services
- 11/18-Thanksgiving Celebration with Tom Callinan
- 11/18-"Caregivers Night Out" Alzheimer's Support Group
- 11/21-Holiday Craft Fair & Open House0

### Upcoming Trips:

- Country Divas at the Aqua Turf 11/17
- A Wonderful Life at the Goodspeed 11/23
- Love Letters at the Bushnell 2/14
- Maple Sugar Madness 3/22
- One Slight Hitch at Newport Playhouse 4/11
- Will & Anthony from Broadway to Italy at the Aquaturf 5/24
- No-Fly Cruise to Bermuda 5/29-6/5
- Treasures of Northern California 9/5-13
- Tropical Costa Rica 11/5-11/13

### Attendance & Meals Served:

- Monthly Transports in October: 1030
- Monthly Attendance in October: 1523 in 21 days
- Meals served in September: Bistro & Special Meals: 85 Community Café: \_\_\_\_ MOW: \_\_\_\_
- Active membership- 858 (40 new members)