



# TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Commission on Aging  
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*Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*

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*Gayle Furman*  
GAYLE FURMAN  
TOWN CLERK

## Colchester Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes

### Monday September 21, 2015 - Colchester Senior Center

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

**Members Absent:** Jean Stawicki, Jennifer Raybern DeHay

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

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Chair G. Siddell called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
- 2. Possible Seating of Alternate:** G. Siddell seated M. Mlodzinski in lieu of a member's absence.
- 3. Minutes:** M. Stanavage motioned to accept the August 10, 2015 meeting minutes. G. Liverant seconded. All members present voted in favor. R. Levine and R. Gustafson abstained. MOTION CARRIED.
- 4. Financial Report:** P. Watts reported the daily transportation collection in August was \$111.00 and out of town trips collection was \$145.00 for a monthly total of \$256.00. The YTD total is \$534.00.
- 5. Chairman's Report:** G. Siddell reported on the Board of Selectmen's statement committing to providing a new senior center as a town goal. Both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance support this unanimously. They are forming a committee consisting of two Selectmen, two members of the Board of Finance, two members of the Commission on Aging and the Director of Senior Services. All current appointees are contingent on the outcome of the November election. G. Siddell reported that he and P. Watts were invited to an Americans with Disabilities Act workshop where they discussed physical requirements for compliance. Also, the East Hampton senior center is hosting an upcoming program to discuss regional opportunities for senior centers. Jennifer Raybern DeHay joined the meeting.
- 6. Senior Center Director's Report:** P. Watts reported that September is National Senior Center Month and this year's theme is Celebrate LIFE at your Senior Center (Learning, Independence, Friends, Energy). The month long 'Game of Life' is in full swing. C4A is hosting a conference in Hartford on Thursday, October 8, entitled "Supporting Love Across the Life Span". Cost is \$65 and includes breakfast and lunch. The Strategic Planning Team for Accreditation will meet from 8-9:30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>. Members will include representatives from AARP, Commission on Aging, Senior Center staff and members, Board of Selectmen and Public Works. The center will become a member of the National Institute of Senior Centers and will receive the NCOA National Accreditation Manual for free. The Sweet Frog Fundraiser to benefit the Making Memories Program raised \$294.55. They are working on other fundraisers to make up the \$5,000 that was cut from the Making Memories budget this year. Programs already held this month: the Senior Golf League End of Season Banquet on 9/1, LIFE Bingo on 9/4, TRIAD's Elder Law Presentation on 9/9, Polymer Clay Jewelry Workshop on 9/11, Feeding a Poor Appetite on 9/14, 9/11 Museum Trip on 9/15 and SECT Regional Event at Ocean Beach Port and Starbird on 9/18. Upcoming programming: Falls Prevention Breakfast on 9/23, Celebrate LIFE Lunch on 9/30 and iPad 2-Part Workshop on 9/30. Upcoming Trips: The Big E on

9/23, *In the Christmas Mood* with the Glenn Miller Orchestra on 12/10 and a No-Fly Cruise to the Bahamas between 3/19&27/16. July statistics unavailable last month: 146 Community Café meals served and 506 Meals-on-Wheels delivered. August statistics: Attendance: 1,741 over 21 days, which was an all-time high, especially notable as it was a summer month when attendance is typically low. Transports in August were 1,129. 85 Bistro and special meals served, 99 Community Café meals served and 461 Meals-on-Wheels delivered. At the end of the month, there were 783 seniors registered in MySeniorCenter which was a gain of 48 members throughout the month. The group discussed the Christmas Fair which will be held from 9-2 on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

7. **Senior Resource Guide:** R. Levine and G. Siddell are working on vetting the information for a reprint. There are lots of changes and clarifications. A draft will be ready for review by the October meeting. Rose explained that understanding the language and vocabulary are key to understanding available opportunities. This opened discussion about the next educational program the Commission would like to sponsor.
8. **Status of NCOA Accreditation Process:** Item was discussed in the Chairman's Report and the Senior Center Director's Report.
9. **Community Outreach Initiative:** J. Raybern DeHay presented a revised flier and asked G. Siddell to email to members for feedback. She has reserved Stop & Shop on November 7 between 10&2 and has volunteers to work a table at each entrance. There will be a canister for donations and possibly a survey asking what citizens think are the most important services the senior center can offer and what they currently use.
10. **Old Business:** No items were reported.
11. **New Business:** G. Siddell had asked members to email him if they were interested in sitting on the committee being formed with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to further the new senior center project. He received one email of interest. No other members volunteered. G. Siddell and E. Phillips are the appointees.
12. **Adjournment:** G. Liverant motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m. E. Phillips seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michelle Komoroski