

Commission on Aging Meeting Notes

Monday, April 17th, 2023 at 2:30pm
Town Hall Small Conference Room
400 Main St. Ridgefield, CT 06877

Present: Joe Ternullo, Andrea Beebe, Debra Franceschini, George Noyes, Carmen Martin, Maureen Culhane, Clem Saleeby, Rudy Marconi, Karen Guadian, and Tony Phillips.

Absent: Peter Bancel

Meeting called to order at 2:36pm by Chair Ternullo.

Public Comments

-Penny Edwards and Lloyd Droller, 2 members from the public attended the meeting to express their interest in joining the commission.

Housekeeping

-Chair Ternullo discussed the previously sent Board, Commission and Committee guidelines.

-Chair Ternullo shared that the Board of Selectmen has invited the COA to attend a meetings on May 24th to provide an update on the commission. Andrea made a motion and Clem seconded. Vote to attend meeting was unanimous.

-Selectman Marconi presented Debra with a surprise town proclamation for her years of work on the COA.

-Chair Ternullo discussed the idea of of the commission become a high performing Commission by working with state and regional groups such as COST, CCM, WestCOG, WCCA and Staywell to help with research and grants. Clem made a motion, Andrea seconded and vote was unanimous in favor of this proposal.

-Debra discussed possibility applying to the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. Selectman Marconi stated that the grant being discussed would require a lot of checks and balances if we decided to pursue it.

-Debra discussed the status of the Senior Guide Booklet and the needed changes discussed with Karen and Joe.

-Andrea shared her senior important dates for a possible rack card with the team and asked for feedback/adds to the list.

-Debra reviewed the upcoming information sessions being done in partnership with the Library. On Monday, April 24th, Medicare Basics, Respite Care & Family Support. On May 23rd from 1-2:30pm Diana Arfine will do an information session on Habitat for Humanity's Brush with Kindness program. An individual from Newtown Savings Bank will also review scams.

-Clem discussed her ideas for Senior Events.

Some event options for group consideration (we could consider food, gifts, a tribute, etc.

- May is Older American's Month – celebrate, encourage, and commemorate older Americans contributions

- Wed, 5/10, at 7:30 pm, at Ridgefield Playhouse, a free wide-screen movie - "Crazy Rich Asians"
Bus availability?
- Mon, 8/21 is National Senior Citizen Day - purpose is to increase awareness of affecting older adults.
- Thurs, 8/24 Game Day in Ballard Green & Congregate....learn a game, win a prize
- Thurs, 9/21: last gasp of summer senior social or Sat, 9/23: Ballard Park Sr. picnic. Food/ice cream truck. 1 to 3 PM.

-Chair Ternullo reviewed the grant strategy. Guiding Principles were step 1. Step 2, now underway, is to meet with community stakeholders and understand needs. Step 3 is to, in concert with the stakeholders, devise a funding plan. Step 4 is to execute on that plan.

-Carmen asked that all COA items for newspaper/media promotion should be sent to her they become available as soon as practicable. Debra confirmed that she will send all COA credentials for Hamlet Hub and Patch to Carmen.

-Chair Ternullo made a motion to approve 1/23, 2/27, 3/20 and 3/21 meeting minutes. George seconded, vote was unanimous.

-New Business

-Debra discussed the necessary action items needed for the new secretary once chosen.

-Debra discussed the COVID memorial ceremony and will follow up with possible dates with Selectman Marconi.

Meeting adjourned at 4:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Franceschini-Gatje
Secretary