

EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

COMMISSION ON AGING

MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2016

A meeting was held at the Senior Community Center on March 1, 2016. Chairman Richard Galluccio called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Members Corrine Dickerson, Richard Galluccio, Yvon P. Lemieux, Felice Mara, Marie Sandora, Barbara Skinner, Mary Ellen Tressy; ViceChair Lucia Ziobro; Alternate Rose C. Egnat; Students Paige Derlinga, Kylie Geer; and Director of Senior Services Kelly Jacobs. Absent were Member Zettie F. Shookus and Director of Social Services Alicia Van Neil.

1. OPENING REMARKS

- R. Galluccio introduced Bobby Marsele as the new COA Clerk.
- R. Galluccio passed on information from Elma Abaza, Resident Manager of Metacomet Homes, that there are apartments available.
- Y. Lemieux reported that his investigation revealed that electric cars were being used in a Connecticut town for town services.

2. MINUTES

Y. Lemieux and L. Ziobro asked why #7A was written out of numerical order. R. Galluccio reminded the members that First Selectman James Hayden was allowed to give his State of the Town report out of numerical order; and the minutes are written in the order of the actual meeting without regard to the numerical order of the Agenda. L. Ziobro also pointed out that one word on page two had a typographical error.

C. Dickerson motioned and F. Mara seconded accepting the minutes as amended.. L. Ziobro opposed, and the remainder were in favor. The motion passed.

3. SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE/COMING EVENTS

K. Jacobs gave a report concerning coming events which are shown in detail in the current Senior Moments. The events are being well received. Payments for reservations for the next one, the Irish Festival on March 8, are still coming in the mail.

R. Galluccio asked about the status of the senior technology training sessions. K. Jacobs indicated that there would be no scheduled group sessions this year. Future sessions would be one on one by appointment. Also, the program will be suspended for the summer months.

4. SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE

K. Jacobs gave A. Van Neil's report as sent to her. There is no information on the Renter's Rebate at this time. The deadline for submitting an application for the Energy Assistance Program for the 2015/2016 winter season is Tuesday, March 15th. The Friend to Friend Thrift Store will re-open Saturday, April 2 and will have new exciting changes.

5. GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM

It was part of A. Van Neil's report that there are two new Good Samaritan volunteers.

P. Derlinga and K. Geer reported that there are currently more volunteers than there are requests for volunteers. Also, they are working to get more underclassmen involved so there will be future volunteers as upper classmen graduate.

6. OLD BUSINESS

M. Sandora reported that the Facebook page for seniors is up and running. It is called "East Granby Seniors Place." It is now a public group. It is currently so new that it needs exposure to the public for more participation to occur. She hoped to be able to report on more participation at next month's meeting. R. Galluccio stated that he would put information about it in the next Let's Talk Turkey.

The 2016 Brainstorm Initiatives were discussed extensively to ensure the understanding of each one by the Members. Two more Initiatives were added: Senior Welcome Wagon, and Electric Car Initiative. Then every Member submitted the three which he/she would like to have the COA pursue as objectives during 2016. R. Galluccio said he would tabulate the results and report back to the group at the next meeting. After selecting the initiatives for 2016, the COA will establish committees to complete the actions.

7. NEW BUSINESS

R. Galluccio and K. Jacobs created a proposal for submission to J. Hayden concerning the addition of a second bus for seniors. Y. Lemieux suggested that language be added to the proposal which would allow for the pursuit of other grants or private funds besides the ones currently in the proposal. R. Galluccio stated he would do so. Members were to digest the proposal and discuss it at next month's meeting.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dolores Campbell, who was present as a guest, stated that, relative to various commentaries throughout the meeting, she had never attended any Town events, senior included, until she had been invited by somebody. That personal contact made all the difference to her, and she now attends many events. She also indicated a desire to join the COA and R. Galluccio said he would get the appropriate data from her to submit to J. Hayden for approval.

9. COMMENTS FROM COA

Members indicated that they thought the meeting was informative and productive. They welcomed B. Marsele and D. Campbell.

Y. Lemieux asked if there was a way to offer free admission to events to some seniors as a way of expanding participation. The group agreed that funding for such an effort was likely not possible at this time.

R. Galluccio stated that he would not be able to attend next month's meeting. It will be chaired by L. Ziobro in his absence.

10. ADJOURN

C. Dickerson motioned and B. Skinner seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectively Submitted,
Bobby A. Marsele
Clerk

ATTACHMENT A
REVISED BRAINSTORMING INITIATIVES for 2016

1. Establish an ice cream social event
2. Investigate possible grants*
3. Increase the number of medical appointment volunteer drivers**
Investigate a medical services program similar to the TAP program in Granby
4. Identify issues and determine cost estimates for better ADA access in the Senior/Community Center bathrooms
5. Identify issues and costs to clean up the pond at Higley Village
6. Investigate better ways to advertise & coordinate with the High School opportunities for community service to seniors***
7. Create a Senior Job Bank
8. Create a senior outdoor gathering place in town
9. Establish a concept and cost estimates for the Senior/Community Center floor
10. Enhancement of travel services.
11. Establish a "Senior Welcome Wagon"
12. The Electric Car Initiative

* The BOS may have a “tool” to assist the Town in this process.

**Volunteers who drive are not covered by the Town for insurance.

*** Community service hour requirements @ the High School will increase from 20 to