

**EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING**

**MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

A meeting was held at the Senior Community Center on September 6, 2016. Chairman Richard Gallucchio called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Chairman Richard Gallucchio, and Vice Chair Lucia Ziobro; members Yvon P. Lemieux, Felice Mara, Marie Sandora, Barbara Skinner, and Mary Ellen Tressy; Alternates Rose C. Egnat and Dolores Campbell; Student Kylie Geer; Director of Senior Services Kelly Jacobs, and Director of Social Services Alicia Van Neil. Absent was Member Corrine Dickerson.

1. OPENING REMARKS

R Gallucchio opened the meeting by informing all present that Zettie F. Shookus had given him her written resignation from the Commission. She stated that personal reasons and obligations, which had kept her from attending all but a couple of meetings in the past year, would continue to prevent her from attending meetings in the future. He stated that he would make the request to First Selectman James Hayden that Rose C. Egnat, the Commission's longest serving Alternate, become a full Member.

2. MINUTES

There were no corrections offered concerning the minutes of the meeting held on June 7, 2016. F. Mara motioned and Y. Lemieux seconded accepting the minutes as written. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE/COMING EVENTS

K. Jacobs stated that the fall calendar of senior events is beginning to unfold. In the next few months, there will be day trips to a wide variety of locations. A flu clinic will be held in October; and a hearing clinic is being planned. The East Granby bus will now be available on the usual Tuesday/Thursday schedule to take seniors to a town line pickup for transport to and from the Windsor Adult Daycare.

R. Gallucchio asked how the plan to replace the blinds and install handicap bathroom doors in the Senior Community Center was going. K. Jacobs stated that the remainder money from last year's budget was used to install handicap entry buttons to the building. The current budget includes some money for the blinds and that money is planned to be added to any remainder money next summer to

acquire the blinds. By that time, new quoted prices will gotten. Also, by waiting, it is hoped that all the rooms can be done at one time, and that that will reduce the cost. She stated that the doors were going to be installed soon.

R. Gallucchio asked K. Jacobs to submit something to Let's Talk Turkey requesting feedback from seniors concerning any needs for rides on the community bus besides Tuesday or Thursday. The purpose would be to determine what those needs are and if a second bus might be a solution.

4. SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE

It was stated by A. Van Neil that the state renters rebate program applications will be taken until September 30, 2016. She also stated that the Governor's budget will likely reduce the amount of money senior renters receive by a lot.

Applications for the Energy Assistance Program will start to be taken September 19, 2016.

5. GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM

K. Jacobs stated that the few requests for a ride on a non-bus day or other help have been arranged for using existing volunteers. The continued problem with this program is the lack of knowing who needs assistance so volunteers can be matched to those needs. She is going to rephrase the Good Samaritan question asked in Senior Moments from "can you volunteer?" to "do you need help?" in an effort to get a different response.

M. Sandora stated that the senior website was still barely growing in use.

6. OLD BUSINESS

K. Geer stated that she has an appointment to meet with the guidance counselor later in the week to select another student to volunteer his/her service to the Commission. She will be accompanied by this student to next month's meeting.

Ice Cream Social—F. Mara attended the one offered in Granby during the summer. She stated that the cost was \$5 per person which helped fundraise after expenses like the ice cream, paper goods, music, etc. Her analysis of the opportunity was that it would require money to run, especially the ice cream, which would likely not be discounted to a first time event. R. Gallucchio indicated that the subject will be tabled for the time being.

Welcome Wagon—A robust discussion took place concerning the possibility of reviving the brochure which used to be handed out by realtors and others. It would include information about the Town and points of interest, shopping, and dining. A. Van Neil stated she learned that the cost of printing would be high. K. Geer stated that she thought Staples might print a color brochure for free; but she could definitely print a black and white brochure at the High School for free. C. Dickerson, A. Van Neil, and K. Geer will continue to gather proposed data to put into the brochure since it is becoming more feasible.

Grants—R. Gallucchio stated that the continued problem with pursuing a grant is that it needs to be for a very specific purpose so that it can be written that way. The subject will be tabled until such a specific need can be pursued. On a tangent, K. Jacobs stated she was working with Dave Wing on the remodeling of the Senior Community kitchen and handicap bathroom doors, which is budgeted capital.

Better Opportunities For Community Service By High School Students—After some discussion, K. Geer stated that she would post a list of ways for students to volunteer in “The Commons,” where all students could see it, along with a contact number for those who wanted to volunteer. It was generally agreed that the next challenge would be to match those volunteers with persons who have a need. R. Gallucchio would contact the Principals of Allgrove and Seymore Schools to determine what their student volunteer needs are.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

9. COMMENTS FROM COA

R. Gallucchio commented that he sent a thank you letter to Paige Derlinga for her service to the Commission; and that Snellgroves Candy Store offered 20% off to seniors on Wednesdays.

10. ADJOURN

M.E. Tressy motioned and F. Mara seconded adjourning the meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Marsele
Clerk

