

COMMISSION ON AGING  
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT  
**MINUTES**

February 2, 2016

A meeting of the East Granby Commission on Aging was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. Members present when Chairman Richard Galluccio called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. were Mary Ellen Tressy, Felice Mara, Yvon Lemieux, Lucia Ziobro, and Marie Sandora and alternate member Rose Egnat. Also present were Director Kelly Jacobs, High School representative Paige Derlinga, First Selectman James Hayden and Selectman John Ziobro. Member Corrine Dickerson arrived at 6:40p.m. Members Barbara Skinner, Zettie Shookus, High School representative Kylie Geer and Social Services Director Alicia VanNeil were absent

**1. OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman Galluccio welcomed the members of the Board of Selectmen to the meeting. He had received correspondence from Beth Webster regarding a hearing program currently available in Granby and requesting East Granby offer the same.

**2. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mary Ellen Tressy and seconded by Yvon Lemieux to approve the minutes of 1/05/15 as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**3. SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE/COMING EVENTS**

Director Kelly Jacobs reported on upcoming events including a UCONN trip and an Irish Festival. The IT Tech workshops were very well attended and the next session may need to be split as 11 have signed up so far. She had 6 student volunteers to assist. She is working on the Mar/Apr/May newsletter. New furniture for the Senior/Community Center will be ordered next week. She investigated the hearing program as mentioned in the opening remark and she would be able to offer it quarterly to the seniors.

**4. SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE**

Alicia Van Neil was not present. Chairman Galluccio stated that the energy assistance program is ongoing and a renters' rebate program will begin in the spring.

**Agenda was taken out of order to allow Selectman Jim Hayden to talk about the State of the Town.**

## **7. A. State of the Town**

The Selectmen reviewed for the Commission the Town's current financial state with regards to the grand list, mill rate and continued AA2 bond rating. Mr. Hayden reviewed upcoming capital expenditures, grants received and future grant requests including the work recently completed for ADA accessibility which he hopes to expand on to include new paving at the Town Hall complex. He explained that the FVHD had received a grant for Veteran initiatives which is now in committee with ideas for socialization, benefits and mental health options. Mr. Lemieux stated for the record that, as a veteran, he was not in favor of the weeding of the community garden proposal.

Mr. Hayden reviewed many of the cultural and town-wide programs that are offered each year.

Lastly, Mr. Hayden noted that the Town is waiting to hear the final numbers as to how the State budget will affect East Granby. A new Shared Services committee has been formed to investigate possibly savings by working jointly. He reviewed some of the upcoming meetings, programs and future expenditures planned.

## **5. GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM**

Paige Derlinga noted that a High School student was looking to "shadow" a nurse and was planning to mention the Good Sam program. Members noted that the program was more volunteer students assisting seniors – not seniors assisting students.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Encourage/Educate Seniors**

Marie Sandora updated the Commission on the senior Facebook page that is in development. The pros & cons of a closed group or public page were discussed. She noted that the Farmers market was a public page and several issues arose. It will remain a closed group page for now.

She also received a memo from Amanda Thompson regarding the Library's Senior Tech Tuesday program. She was looking for input on what the Commission thought seniors may wish to learn about such as Instagram, Facebook, operating iPads etc.

### **B. COA Proposed Bylaw Changes**

Mr. Hayden stated that the BOS has approved the proposed bylaw revision at their last meeting. A motion was made by Lucia Ziobro and seconded by Yvon

Lemieux to approve the proposed addition as written. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. Brainstorm 2016 Initiatives**

There was a roundtable discussion to throw out ideas to accomplishment in the upcoming year. See Attachment A to these minutes for complete list.

**8. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

No public present to comment.

**9. COMMENTS FROM COA**

Members commented on the hope for a better year ahead and noted that a permanent clerk was needed by the Commission.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Corrine Dickerson and seconded by Rose Egnat to adjourn the meeting at 8:00p.m. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie McKenney  
Acting Clerk

Modified and approved by COA at March 1 meeting.

Respectively submitted,

Richard Galluccio  
Chairman

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**BRAINSTORMING INITIATIVES for 2016**

- Establish an ice cream social event
- Investigate possible grants\*
- Increase the number of medical appointment volunteer drivers\*\*
- Continue outreach effort to seniors including those AARP age
- Investigate a medical services program similar to the TAP program in Granby
- Identify issues and determine cost estimates for better ADA access in the Senior/Community Center bathrooms
- Identify issues and costs to clean up the pond at Higley Village
- Investigate better ways to advertise & coordinate with the High School opportunities for community service to seniors\*\*\*
- Find a greater effort to publicize the Good Samaritan Program
- Create a Senior Job Bank
- Create a senior meeting place other than @ the Senior/Community Center
- Establish a concept and cost estimates for the Senior/Community Center floor
- Enhancement of travel services.

\* 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

40