

**EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING**

**MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2016**

A meeting was held at the Senior Community Center on April 5, 2016. Vice Chair Lucia Ziobro called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Vice Chair Lucia Ziobro; Members Felice Mara, Barbara Skinner, Mary Ellen Tressy, Zettie F. Shookus, Corrine Dickerson, and Yvon P. Lemieux; Student Kylie Geer; and Director of Social Services Alicia Van Neil. Absent were Chairman Richard Galluccio; Member Marie Sandora; Alternates Rose Egnat, and Delores Campbell; Student Paige Derlinga; and Director of Senior Services Kelly Jacobs.

1. OPENING REMARKS

L. Ziobro announced that R. Galluccio was unable to attend the meeting which was why she would be Chairing it. She indicated her intention to have the meeting adjourn within an hour as there was a Town meeting about the budget scheduled at the High School at 7:30pm, and she wanted those who intended to attend that meeting to be able to do so in a timely manner.

2. MINUTES

There were no corrections offered concerning the minutes for the meeting held on March 1, 2016. Y. Lemieux motioned and C. Dickerson seconded accepting the minutes as written. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE/COMING EVENTS

The report for K. Jacobs was given by A. Van Neil as sent to her. The presentation on Joint Health was held on April 1, 2016, was well attended, and very good. The spring program is unfolding with trips planned to a variety of places in addition to a presentation by the FVHD on springtime safety. The hearing clinic was rescheduled to May 5, 2016 due to the illness of the doctor.

The summer calendar is being worked on. June 17, 2016 has been selected as the date for the third annual clam bake in conjunction with the Park & Rec concert. The new furniture for the Senior Community Center has arrived and is in place.

4. SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE

The Rental Rebate program has begun. It runs from April 1, 2016 to October 1, 2016, and the income limits are \$35,200 for single persons and \$42,900 for married couples.

The Energy Assistance program is closed except for families who have electric as their primary heat.

The Thrift Store re-opened April 2, 2016. The Food Pantry is doing very well, but is in need of a few volunteers for Fridays.

5. GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM

As reported by A. Van Neil, there is a new volunteer for this program who will be coming in for an interview in two weeks. There is a need for a senior male “friendly visitor.” Y. Lemieux suggested contacting Tom Moran to find out if the veterans group would be willing to help with friendly visits regardless of whether the person is a veteran. A. Van Neil said she would contact him.

6. OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion about the second bus proposal. Y. Lemieux suggested that the bus not operate during snow months which would save the \$1200 cost of snow tires. The group indicated a desire to have the second bus operate year round, which would necessitate the purchase of snow tires. He also wanted the word “Barber” added to the second paragraph.

Y. Lemieux motioned and Felice Mara seconded forwarding the “Enhancement of Senior Travel Services” proposal to James Hayden to present to the Board of Selectmen as written, except for the addition of the word “Barber.” L. Ziobro abstained from voting because the fact that her husband serves on the Board created a conflict of interest. The remainder were in favor and the motion passed.

The results of the Brainstorming Initiatives for 2016 were discussed. The group thought the five “Selected” initiatives should be assigned to specific Members for investigation concerning, but not limited to, how to execute, how to fund, who to contact for input, and where to publicize. These Members will report their findings at the next meeting. The assignments are: F. Mara and Y. Lemieux--the ice cream social; C. Dickerson, A. Van Neil, and K. Geer—the welcome wagon; A. Van Neil, K. Jacobs, and C. Dickerson—expanding volunteer drivers; M.E. Tressy and Y. Lemieux—attend grant writing course, and B. Skinner—contact the Historical Society grant writer for helpful tips; R. Galluccio and K. Geer—better opportunities and advertising for community service by High School students.

7. NEW BUSINESS

L. Ziobro indicated that the Town budget referendum, should there be one, may be held on the day of the next COA meeting. L. Ziobro will contact R. Galluccio so he can pursue the potential change of meeting location with J. Hayden.

Y. Lemieux thought that the Town's website was poor in appearance, and lacked relevance and up to date information about what is going on in the Town. L. Ziobro said she would pass those thoughts to R. Galluccio for his future conversations with J. Hayden.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

As no members of the public were in attendance, there were no public comments.

9. COMMENTS FROM COA

There were none.

10. ADJOURN

B. Skinner motioned and F. Mara seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobby Marsele
Clerk

Enhancement of Senior Travel Services

Add a second Bus to enhance travel services for Seniors. Currently the one bus we have is busy with shopping trips, medical appointments, entertainment trips and transporting people for Senior Center activities. The bus has been augmented by purchase of an SUV a couple of years ago that provides for specific cases of travel.

Grocery, Pharmacy and Banking on Wednesday. Doctor, Dentist, Hairdresser and Personal Care appointments every Tuesday & Thursday. Late last year, once a month trips were added for medical appointments to Hartford and Farmington.

Addition of a second bus would allow for more medical appointment trips out of the area, (Hartford, Farmington, Enfield). Entertainment trips can be increased or provide the ability to transport more people for each individual trip. The frequency of shopping trips can be increased. In general, more transportation opportunities can be provided for Seniors in East Granby. The second bus would also provide back-up for the current bus if repairs are needed for this 10 year old vehicle.

The second bus would cost \$60,000. The Hartford Foundation could provide approximately 50% of the cost through a grant, the DOT could provide 80% of the cost or there may be other grants from private industry that could provide this. On a recurring basis, fuel, maintenance and driver salary is estimated at \$7,500 per year. A one-time expenditure of \$1,200 would be required for snow tires.

This seems like a small price to pay to enhance the life of Seniors in East Granby.

RESULTS OF BRAINSTORMING INITIATIVES for 2016

SELECTED

1. Establish an ice cream social event -9
11. Establish a "Senior Welcome Wagon" -8
3. Increase the number of medical appointment volunteer drivers**
Investigate a medical services program similar to the TAP program in
Granby -5
2. Investigate possible grants* -4
6. Investigate better ways to advertise & coordinate with the High School
opportunities for community service to seniors*** -4

NOT SELECTED

2. Create a senior outdoor gathering place in town -3
7. Create a Senior Job Bank -2
9. Establish a concept and cost estimates for the Senior/Community
Center floor -2
5. Identify issues and determine cost estimates for better ADA access in
the Senior/Community Center bathrooms -1
3. Identify issues and costs to clean up the pond at Higley Village -1
10. Enhancement of travel services. 0
12. The Electric Car Initiative 0

* 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