

**EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING**

**MINUTES
MAY 3, 2016**

A meeting was held at the small meeting room in the Town Hall on May 3, 2016. Chairman Richard Galluccio called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Chairman Richard Galluccio, and Vice Chair Lucia Ziobro; Members Corrine Dickerson, Yvon P. Lemieux, Felice Mara, Marie Sandora, Barbara Skinner, and Mary Ellen Tressy; Alternates Rose C. Egnat, and Dolores Campbell; Students Paige Derlinga, and 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 opened the meeting with the following remarks:

*On Thursday, May 26, 2016, the 25th Annual Student Art Show will be held by students of Carl Allgrove and R. Dudley Seymour Schools. There will be shuttle service.

*R. Galluccio contacted First Selectman James Hayden about the second bus proposal. While J. Hayden did not reject it, he did express the need to know how much demand there is for one. R. Galluccio asked K. Jacobs, along with A. Van Neil, to keep a list for a couple of months of persons who are turned away from a bus ride either because there is no room, or there is no service on the day requested.

*On the subject of funding for COA initiatives, J. Hayden did not rule out the possibility that there could be some funding which could come from the Town.

*R. Galluccio stated that the Town Budget, which passed, has two more hours in it for A. Van Neil, as well as funding for blinds for the Senior Community Center.

*The effort to have the Good Samaritan program featured on the first page of the Town website is part of the redesign, which is still a work in progress.

*There was a general request to all present to encourage anyone to add East Granby Seniors Place to their Facebook "likes and follows" in an effort to expand its readership and postings.

2. MINUTES

There were no corrections offered concerning the minutes of the meeting held on April 5, 2016. C. Dickerson motioned and M. Sandora seconded accepting the minutes as written. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE/COMING EVENTS

K. Jacobs reported that the hearing clinic would be taking place as rescheduled on May 5, 2016. The spring program of planned trips and events is ongoing; and the next Senior newsletter is in progress.

4. SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE

The report for A. Van Neil was given by K. Jacobs. The Rental Rebate program is continuing until October 1, 2016; and the Thrift Store is now open.

5. GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM

K. Jacobs reported that a new volunteer was interviewed successfully. The program is problematic, however, in that there is a pool of available Samaritans but no known pool of persons who need a Samaritan. Thus there is no ability to match the two, which is counter to the desire to provide such a service. Resolving this issue will be vital to the viability of the program.

R. Galluccio stated that he is hopeful the program's presence on the front page of the Town website will be helpful.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Ice Cream Social—F. Mara reported that her research shows that to have this event successfully, the ice cream must be donated. She is continuing to look for such a donation.

Welcome Wagon—The discussion was very much in step with the problems the Good Samaritan program has. Until there is a way to know who and how many new seniors come to live in East Granby, it is hard to know exactly how to use a program like this to meet their needs, or even to determine what their needs are. Further discussion suggested “prospecting” for newcomers via the breakfast socials held monthly at the senior villages.

Expanding Volunteer Drivers—This became a discussion linked to those about the Good Samaritan and the Welcome Wagon. There was additional input that drivers have liability concerns that keep them from wanting to volunteer.

Attend Grant Writing Course—Y. Lemieux and M.E. Tressy attended the course at Conard High School in West Hartford. It was an overview about how to use websites to find grants which could be sought for a project, and the details that are necessary to write in an application for it to become a good candidate for a particular grant. They came away with the thinking grants depend on the blending of a clearly defined project, a grant that would specifically be suited for that project, and an experienced grant writer.

R. Galluccio stated he is going to ask J. Hayden if the BOS would be approve seeking grants to upgrade the Senior Community Center kitchen, and to make the bathrooms there ADA compliant.

Community Service By High School Students—R. Galluccio asked everyone to come to the next meeting with ideas about how and what senior needs could be done by students. Also, there will be the continued need to determine who needs help, as well as how to match volunteer students with seniors who have these needs.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

B. Marsele offered information about the Elderly Homeowners program, which applications are made at the Assessors Office. The application opportunity will expire on May 13, 2016. She encouraged that the group recommend contacting the Assessor to any potentially eligible person.

9. COMMENTS FROM COA

The June meeting is often difficult for a senior to attend due to end of year school conflicts. R. Galluccio, in the event that she is not able to come, expressed the COA's gratitude to senior, P. Derlinga, for her time and effort as a Student representative. She, in turn, thanked the COA for the opportunity to be a part of the commission. She also suggested that K. Geer approach the High School Administration now about a replacement Student.

Y. Lemieux stated that he had seen a program on Granby's local tv which included a presentation by and about their COA. He said it was very impressive and recommended it to those interested. L. Ziobro commented that while she has all due respect for neighboring COAs, she wanted to acknowledge the effort and work of East Granby's COA, of which she is proud to be a Member.

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 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Marsele
Clerk

