

**EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON AGING**

**MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2019**

A meeting was held at the Senior Community Center on January 8, 2019. Chairman Richard Galluccio called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. In attendance were Chairman Richard Galluccio, and Vice Chair Cheryl McCann; members Lucia Ziobro, Corrine Dickerson, Beth Galloway, Judy Root, and Jennifer DeCoteau; students Rachel Griffin and Sean Griffin; Director of Senior Services Kelly Jacobs, and Director of Social Services Elise Cosker. Absent were members Felice Mara, and Marie Sandora; and alternate Brian Cosker.

1. OPENING REMARKS

R Galluccio stated that, contrary to last month's appointments, J DeCoteau would become a member replacing David Zavaleta; and B Cosker would remain an alternate. He made an appeal to the television audience for anyone interested in becoming an alternate to contact him or K Jacobs.

As the Board of Selectmen was represented by James Hayden, First Selectman, who would be giving a "State of the Town" report, and John Ziobro, Selectman, there was an introduction of each person present.

R Galluccio shared the fact that a person who had been helped as part of East Granby Cares Day approached him to say how grateful they were for the help, as well as how courteous and helpful the students were.

2. MINUTES

There were no corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on December 4, 2018. C Dickerson motioned and C McCann seconded accepting the minutes as written. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE/COMING EVENTS

K Jacobs reported that her programs were going well as usual. The Boar's Head Festival in Hartford, to which seniors went for the first time, was fun and interesting. She recommended it to anyone seeking something different to do. Special events coming include a UConn women's basketball game, and a probate presentation by Judge David Baram.

4. SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE

E Cosker reported that the Holiday Program was very successful. With contributions of goods and services by churches, businesses, school children, residents, the library, knitters groups, Town employees, and Friend to Friend, families and individuals, including seniors, received gift baskets and food for their holidays.

She further reported that there has been an increase in recent months in the number of persons/households seeking help from The Food Pantry. She said it is a mix of seniors and non-seniors.

5. GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM

E Cosker reported that last year, there were 14 recipients of assistance through the program. Several of them were helped multiple times. The tasks consisted of small manual labor jobs both in and outside homes, assistance with things like computers, and friendly companion visits. In October, on East Granby Cares Day, similar jobs were done by student volunteers as part of the fulfillment of their community service hours. Another EG Cares Day will be planned for students next fall.

R Galluccio reminded the COA and the television audience that more information about the Good Samaritan program can be found on the Town website.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Have meetings with regional COA's

J Root stated that once M Sandora returns from being away, they plan to pursue this initiative with renewed vigor. Several neighboring towns had been approached before the holidays and were very interested in a sharing of ideas.

Create a volunteer student registry

R Griffin stated that there is no anticipated need for such a registry as an initiative because there is already a pool of students whom K Jacobs or E Cosker can call upon to assist people with simple, non-dangerous needs.

Senior Celebration

R Galluccio explained this idea again. It would be a gathering of residents at a meal, or an event with light refreshments, for the purpose of honoring the Town's most senior citizens...perhaps 85 or 90 and older. K Jacobs will explore the options for the gathering as well as how to determine who the most senior residents are.

7. NEW BUSINESS

J Hayden gave a “State of the Town” report. He spoke about the quality of life in town which is very good, and made even better because of the many volunteers who give their time and energy so freely in so many ways. He stated that the town’s financial status was also very good and stable, including an AA bond rating, and the employment of 3500 persons in town. Economic development is ever a goal and being actively pursued. He spoke about the next big project which will require bonding...the roof replacement on public buildings and schools, as well as major town-wide road repairs.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Paul Oliva, from the Granby Ambulance Association, stated that the “Stop The Bleed” program is going very well. Donations have been large enough to pay for all the many special first aid triage kits needed to supply East Granby schools and public buildings. Training programs are ongoing and free.

9. COMMENTS FROM COA

There were comments of thanks to J Hayden for coming to the meeting. R Galluccio stated that next month’s meeting will feature Margaret Hale from Nutmeg rides, who requested an opportunity to address the COA. It will also be a brainstorming meeting for new potential initiatives for 2019.

10. ADJOURN

C Dickerson motioned and B Galloway seconded adjourning the meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Marsele
COA Clerk