

Commission on Aging

East Granby, CT

Minutes

January 2, 2024

East Granby Community Center / 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Cheryl Bermani-McCann, Chairwoman

Marie Sandora, Member

Mattia Brose, Member

John Kiang, Member

Jon Webster, Member

Cathy Delasco, Member, 7:09 p.m.

Eden Wimpheimer, Alternate

Warren Miltimore

Kelly Jacobs, Senior Services

Donna Mattera, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Cheryl Bermani-McCann at 6:42 p.m. noting tonight's meeting is a special meeting of the COA.

1. Opening Remark - Chairwoman Cheryl Bermani-McCann reported she sent a note to Judy Root thanking her for her service to the committee. She also reported Holly Corcoran resigned from the committee as she has been offered an opportunity in the Air Force. Cheryl also sent a thank you note to Lee Galluccio for providing the refreshments for the Wellness Fair. A submission was sent into Talk Turkey by Cheryl extending a thank you to all the students who helped with East Granby Care Day making it such a big success. She reported membership renewals were on the agenda and gave an overview of the member seats and alternate seats available. She explained that when someone assumes a vacancy, that person fulfills the seat with the term date of expiration. John Kiang invited Warren Miltimore to the meeting and was interested in possibly serving in one of the open alternate positions. She also noted Selectwoman Eden Wimpheimer transferred to an alternate position due to her many town commitments. Jon Webster will now move to member status.

2. Minutes of Past Meetings - MOTION: a motion was made by Marie Sandora, seconded by John Kiang to accept the December 5, 2023 minutes as presented. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

3. Senior Services Update - Kelly Jacobs wanted to remind everyone with the weather forecasting the possibility of snow that everyone familiarizes themselves with the snow procedure pertaining to closings and delays. She noted that if the schools close then the town cancels services. If there is a school delay or an early release then appropriate decisions are made regarding programming. Residents can tune into the local tv channel 3 and channel 30. There is also an Emergency Notification option at eastgranbyct.org where residents can click the red circle and sign up to be notified of emergency information related to the town. If residents do not have access to the internet, Senior services have paper applications available. Kelly also went over the upcoming events being held in January and February. She is working on the spring calendar. Cheryl shared about the program PAWS that is for 65 and older to be permanent fosters of animals. She thought maybe Kelly would be interested in advertising for the cause. Kelly reported the Christmas lunch was well attended and we are almost at pre-Covid numbers. A fun time was had by all in attendance.

4. Social Services Update - Elise Cosker not able to make it this evening. Kelly reported on her behalf of notes Elise sent. The Social Services 2023 Holiday Gift program was a huge success and thanks to the outpouring generosity from our community. A special thank you to the supporters this year; East Granby Congregational Church, Westminster School, Marmon Industrial Energy & Infrastructure Group, TIGHTCO, Almost Famous Brewing Company, Amped Fitness, Three Brothers II, the East Granby Library, the East Granby knitters' group, the East Granby Town Hall employees, Allgrove School and over a dozen generous families. We were able to fill wish lists for 45 children in East Granby. Donations of toys, winter coats, gift cards, hats, mittens, scarves and books spread holiday cheer. A special thank you to all the supporters, donors and volunteers for making the holidays so special year after year.

5. Good Samaritan Program - Kelly Jacobs noted there was no update. She reported there have not been many calls and not many volunteers.

6. Old Business

Senior Celebration - Kelly Jacobs reported the expenses were finalized and there is \$84.50 remaining.

Bequest - It was reported the electrical work was more costly than the town expected. The plaque has been purchased. A discussion took place regarding having a celebration for Bea Adam's donation to the town and the pavilion. No decisions were made.

East Granby Cares - Cheryl reported we received money back from our purchase of the flashlights as they were not received on time. The original grant from People's Bank was \$500.00 and with the refund the total received is \$400.00. Cheryl suggested the funds could be used for Bea's celebration or maybe towards the cards initiative that will be discussed later on the agenda. Kelly Jacobs noted she can place the money in one of her accounts and keep a subledger to track the balance of the funds. Cheryl reported Northwest Bank also donates and she was going to reach out to the bank to see their process.

Senior Wellness Fair - There were 54 flu shots administered at the fair. It was reported that the numbers could possibly be down due to United Health Care insurance no longer being accepted and people are going to the pharmacies for their shots.

Membership Renewals - Cheryl went over the vacancies and the new appointments from tonight's meeting. Warren Miltimore accepted the alternate position leaving one alternate seat vacant. Cheryl welcomed back Cathy Delasco as a member of the committee. Members are as follows: M. Brose, P. Carroll, C. Delasco, C. Dickerson, J. Kiang, C. Bermani-McCann, N. McCloskey, M. Sandora, J. Webster. Alternates: E. Wimpheimer, W. Miltimore (pending being sworn in). There is an alternate position vacant.

Revise COA Website Information - Marie Sandora went over the website information and proposed changes. Discussions took place on items to delete off the website and possibly adding links that will help community members access services. The advertisements were revised with committee input. Cheryl would like to see a list of the COA accomplishments giving an overview of what the committee has provided to the community. Mattia Brose offered to make a list of events that have been held in the past year. Pictures were also discussed to possibly add to the website from some of the events held. Eden will take a look at the Mission statement for the COA and work on the wording due to the interpretation of the word disabled. Eden will take care of getting all updates to AI who maintains the town's websites. Looking at the website subcategories, each initiative will be read and updated or deleted as needed. Cheryl will contact Superintendent Melissa Bavaro Grande in regards to the need for seniors to read to the children in the district.

Thank you's - Cheryl sent out all the thank you notes needing to be sent as mentioned above.

7. New Business -

New Members - Cheryl welcomed Cathy Delasco back as a member. She also welcomed Warren Miltimore for attending tonight's meeting. Eden will include in the Talk Turkey that there is a seat open for an alternate position on the COA.

Vote for 2024 Positions - The floor was open to nominations.

MOTION: a motion was made by Cathy Delasco, seconded by Jon Webster to nominate Cheryl Bermani-McCann as Chairwoman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

MOTION: a motion was made by Mattia Brose, seconded by John Kiang to nominate Cathy Delasco as Vice Chairwoman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

There was a conversation to possibly have a committee in the future to help with some of the communications needed as events take place.

2024 Initiatives - Cheryl asked the members to contribute with ideas of new initiatives for the future.

Some of the ideas suggested were cards to be sent to the seniors for various times of the year i.e., Happy New Year, Valentines Day, birthday, 100 birthday milestones. Possibly using some of the dollars for postage to mail the cards. Other ideas: Celebration for Bea Adams generous donations, a bench in honor of Rich, a planter, holding an informational session specializing in elder law, recognizing 100-year-old birthdays with a card and flowers, keeping website up to date on ongoing resources, session on dementia geared for caregivers, technology workshops for seniors, Medicare informational segments on GCTV, Uber vouchers for seniors to name a few. Kelly Jacobs noted the senior van is well used by the community twice a week to transport community members to various places and appointments. It is wheelchair accessible.

8. Comments from the Public - Warren Miltimore commented he liked the initiatives shared tonight. He also accepted being an alternate. Cheryl thanked him and will let him know the process to be sworn in.

9. Comments from COA - Cheryl along with the committee thanked Holly Corcoran for her time serving on the COA and wished her luck in the Air Force. Everyone also welcomed Cathy back to COA. Jon noted he was excited to be part of the committee as a member. Donna thanked the committee for all they do as it is such an important service to the senior community of our town. Eden wished everyone a Happy New Year!

10. Adjournment - Chairwoman Cheryl Bermanni-McCann adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.