

COMMISSION ON AGING

May 11, 2020

Special Meeting Minutes

The Glastonbury Commission on Aging held a Special Meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

Present: Rosemary Hokanson, Darren Hill, Jennifer DiSette, Philip Markuszka, Gayle Kataja, Janeen Dolan

Absent: Nancy Goodwin.

Liaisons Present: Lisa Zerio, Parks & Recreation Director
Patti White, Senior Services Department Supervisor

Others present: Thomas Phillips, Consultant
Sandy Rodriguez, Consultant

Liaisons Absent: Barbara Evans, AARP

Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 2 minutes were approved with one amendment made to include adding Thomas Phillips as an attendee.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Patti informed the members that she had been contacted by Jennifer Sanford, a member of the Town Board of Finance inquiring about how she could help during the pandemic with meeting the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities in the community.

Patti also stated that the national AARP office will be presenting a Webinar on May 19th on the subject of how Age-Friendly communities are responding to the needs of residents to the Coronavirus 19. Patti sent an email with the link to the Webinar to commission members.

LIAISON REPORTS:

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT:

Patti and Lisa reported on what the town's response has been to assist residents during the Coronavirus pandemic which included:

- Making weekly wellness calls to approximately 100 vulnerable seniors
- Distributing masks to approximately 230 households
- Distributing food gift cards to families/individuals in need
- Organizing volunteers to assist with grocery and prescription deliveries
- Obtaining approximately \$30,000 in donations from the community to help residents in need

AARP: NA

OLD BUSINESS:

Age Friendly Focus Group Meetings/Next Steps

Commission members agreed to move forward with doing the 3 focus groups virtually in the month of June. Patti will assist Tom is setting up the session at the housing developments and with Youth and Family Services. Tom will reconnect with the Chamber and prepare the agenda and questions for focus groups.

Core Leadership Team Next Steps

After discussion of the role of the CLT the members agreed to reach out to the members and try to hold a virtual meeting in June. Tom will prepare tools to help guide the planning discussions of the CLT.

Action Plan Timeline Update

Commission members agreed to extend the timeline of the action plan approximately 2 months with the goal of submitting to AARP/WHO by November 30th. Patti and Lisa will obtain guidance from the town manager on the proposed timeline and presentation to the Town Council.

AARP Challenge & NCAA Chores Grants updates

Patti and Lisa reported that the NCAA Chores grant had been submitted and had successfully passed the first round of the evaluation process. Patti reported that a second virtual review might occur on May 19th if needed by the review panel.

Lisa reported that a draft of the AARP challenge grant was currently being reviewed by the town manager with the goal of submission on May 15th. The grant if funded would provide for an outdoor 14 piece fitness center, upgrading of the gravel on the trail behind the RCC with 10 benches and signage.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town/Department response to Covid 19 Pandemic

Lisa and Patti reported that the town is working to safely reopen town services with a phased approach per the recommendations of health and government agencies. Lisa reported that some pt. time staff reductions might be possible given the reduction in town services at this time.

Public Comment:

Ronald DeGray offered public comment stating that he was supportive of the concept of providing opportunities for people to experience a sense of place to assemble safely in town, citing an example of an expansion of the public library in NYC with a nearby park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Philp Markuszka, Acting Secretary