

COMMISSION ON AGING

January 11, 2021

Special Meeting Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Jennifer DiSette, Darren Hill, Philip Markuszka, Gayle Kataja.

Absent:

Liaisons Present: Lisa Zerio, Parks & Recreation Director
Patti White, Senior Services Department Supervisor
Barbara Evans, AARP
Thomas Phillips, Consultant

Liaisons Absent:

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meetings held on November 16, 2020 were accepted as written.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Barbara Evans reported that the local AARP chapter had received a certificate of recognition from the national AARP congratulating them on their 45th year of existence. Barbara commented that this chapter is one of the oldest in the country.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Barbara Evans reported that due to the virus the local AARP chapter had not been meeting.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT:

Patti White updated the members on the recent virtual activities and services provided by the department which included two holiday concerts attended by approximately 25 seniors. Patti stated that progress was being made on efforts to safely offer the AARP Tax Aid program in 2021. She also reported that the department would be applying for a \$2,500 grant from the State Unit on Aging to help fund a tablet lending program which would enable more seniors to connect with others during the pandemic. Outdoor programming was currently being planned for the spring including, Tai Chi, Qigong Meditation and the Senior Golf League. Patti indicated that the Chores program policies and procedures were being reviewed to address any potential

liability issues for the town.

Lisa reported that the Social Services Department provided masks to approximately 615 households in 2020 and served 212 households through the Food Pantry in the 4th quarter of last year, with 47 already served less than halfway through the month of January. Lisa also informed the members that the Glastonbury Interfaith group had generously supplemented the holiday food give away which served 234 households and 225 children. Energy Assistance and Homeowners Tax Relief programs were also underway.

Lisa stated that the Parks and Recreation Department was in the process of converting its program registration software system and going live in February.

Old Business

Age Friendly Update

- Meeting with AARP Liaison Bill Ambruster

Patti and Tom reported that the meeting went extremely well and that Bill had offered very positive feedback and recommendations on how to structure and enhance the Glastonbury Age-Friendly action plan.

- Logo

The group reviewed a few sample logos for Glastonbury's Age-Friendly initiative and made suggestions. Lisa stated that next steps would include a review of the logo samples by the Town Manager. Phil recommended that the logo include representation of Gender Equity and Orientation. All agreed.

- Anti-Ageism Training

Lisa and Patti stated that they had met with Dr. Carrie Andreoletti on ways to best approach providing Ageism training. Lisa indicated that she and Patti would take the Ageism First Aid training and would be working with the Town Manager and HR department to assess the possibilities of provide the training to the department's staff and volunteers, as well as the COA members and other groups in the future.

- Funding Possibilities

Lisa reported that the town manager was committed to providing funding resources to the Age-Friendly initiative through the budget process and that Patti would keep an eye out for other grant possibilities.

- Action Plan Outline Draft

Tom presented a detailed PowerPoint on the essential components of the Action Plan and outlined the next steps in the process. Tom recommended obtaining letters of support for the plan from Federal and State legislators. All agreed.

New Business

21/22 Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Gayle Kataja to set the COA meeting dates for the next year as follows: First Monday of each month at 5:30 pm for the months of February, March, April, May, June, September (2nd Monday), October, November and December of 2021 and January of 2022. Motion was seconded by Phil Markuszka. Voting yes: Jennifer DiSette, Daren Hill, Gayle Kataja and Phil Markuszka. Motion passed unanimously.

A recommendation was also made to hold the next Age-Friendly Core Leadership Team meeting on March 10th. All agreed.

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Phil Markuszka to nominate Jennifer DiSette as Chair of the COA for the next year. Motion seconded by Gayle Kataja. Voting yes: Daren Hill, Gayle Kataja, Jennifer DiSette and Phil Markuszka. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patti White, Acting Secretary

