

# COMMISSION ON AGING

March 1, 2021

## Regular Meeting Via Zoom

### Minutes

**Present:** Jennifer DiSette, Darren Hill, Gayle Kataja, Denise Weeks, Beth Hillson

**Absent:** Philip Markuszka

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

**Liaisons Absent:** Barbara Evans, AARP

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

Jennifer DiSette welcomed two new members to the COA, Denise Weeks and Beth Hillson. All members spoke briefly about themselves and their purpose for joining the Commission.

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#### **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the special meeting held on January 11, 2021 were accepted as written.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Patti White reported that she had received copies of the appointment letters from the Town Council for Denise Weeks and Beth Hillson.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

Patti reported on behalf of Barbara Evans stating that there were no new developments with the local chapter. Patti updated the commission on the AARP tax assistance program which began in mid-February and is now serving approximately 12 individuals a day, three days a week

Lisa Zerio informed the members of the numerous programs and services being provided by the Social Services Department and stated that the requests for food assistance, which is now being provided with food cards has increased substantially, compared to the same period one year ago. Lisa also stated that the Glastonbury community has continued to be very generous with their donations to the Glastonbury Gives Fund and that a grant was submitted to the Hartford Foundation's Glastonbury Community Fund to support the creation of a self-select food pantry.

#### **SENIOR SERVICES REPORT:**

Patti White updated the members on the recent virtual activities and services provided by the

department which included two drive thru events attended by approximately 65 seniors. She also reported that the department received a \$2,500 grant from the State Unit on Aging to help fund a pilot tablet lending program which will enable more seniors to connect with others.

Patti reported that the town intended to apply for renewal funding in March for the Chores Program and the AARP Community Challenge grant in May.

### **Old Business**

#### **Age Friendly Update**

Lisa informed the members that at this point in the budget process the proposed Capital Outlay line item includes \$20,000 to support the Age-Friendly Initiative. Lisa and Patti also informed the members that now that the town budget process was nearing completion the logo for the Age-Friendly initiative would be reviewed and brought back to the COA.

Lisa and Patti stated that they would continue to work with Dr. Andreoletti to launch the Ageism training for members of the COA, CLT and other town staff and community members.

Patti informed the members that Thomas Phillips was continuing to write the narrative of the Action Plan and was awaiting feedback on some of the components from town staff.

### **New Business**

#### **None**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patti White, Acting Secretary

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