

COMMISSION ON AGING

April 5, 2021

Regular Meeting Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Jennifer DiSette, Gayle Kataja, Denise Weeks, Beth Hillson, Philip Markuszka

Absent: Darren Hill

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

Liaisons Absent: Barbara Evans, AARP

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on March 1, 2021 were accepted as written.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Karen Belmont, Director of Community Relations at The Hearth at Glastonbury informed the members about the current state of their facility, reporting that family visitors are welcome and things are getting back to normal. She also stated that the Memory Care unit was almost filled to capacity and that all residents had been vaccinated and 60% of staff had as well.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Lisa Zerio informed the members about the programs and services provided by the Social Services Department, including Renters Rebate and Energy Assistance. Lisa stated that donations to the Glastonbury Gives Fund had continued to be very generous with support from the community as well from the Glastonbury Interfaith group.

Lisa also reported that interviews had been done for the Resident Services Coordinator position and were being finalized. Lisa stated that the approved town budget included

\$20,000 in Capital Outlay for items related to the Age-Friendly Community initiative as well as funding for the construction of Pickleball courts behind the Riverfront Community Center in the Capital Improvement Program budget.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT:

Patti White updated the members on the recent virtual activities and services provided by the department which included the beginning of some in-person programming including; outside Bingo, pizza parties, movies and other dance and exercise classes.

Patti also reported that the department had purchased 8 devices with grants and donations for the pilot Tech Tablet Loan program and were in the process of identifying the recipients and organizing training for them.

Old Business

Chores Program

Patti stated that the Chores program was now operating and that a clean-up was scheduled for a senior in town on the coming Saturday. Patti noted that one of the participants had requested a walking buddy. Information about the program could be found on the town website and referrals could be made to Matt Snyder, Chores Program Coordinator at 860-652-7645.

Phil Markuszka stated that he thought that it was a great idea for a walking buddy program to be organized, and volunteered to participate.

Ageism Training

Patti informed the members that she would send them the information on the procedure to sign up to take the Ageism First Aid training and how to be reimbursed by the town for the \$20.00 per person cost.

Age Friendly Update

Thomas Phillips reviewed documents in draft form of some of the contents of the Age-Friendly Action Plan that included; the Executive Summary, History of the AFC initiative, Mission and Core Values, the Town Profile and Building on Current Work.

Jennifer thanked Tom and the group indicated that they needed more time to review these drafts and would discuss in further detail at the May 3rd meeting.

AARP Challenge Grant

Patti reported that the AARP Challenge grant would be submitted by April 14th and would include funding for Age-Friendly Initiative recommendations.

New Business

A motion was made by Denise Weeks that the Commission on Aging draft a letter to Community Development Manager Jonathan Mullen with suggestions and questions regarding universal design development in town. No action taken.

A motion was made by Phil Markuszka that the Commission on Aging consider the matter raised by Denise Weeks at its May 3rd meeting. The motion was seconded by Gail Kataja. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patti White, Acting Secretary