

COMMISSION ON AGING

September 13, 2021

Minutes

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

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

Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meetings held on June 14th and 28th 2021 were accepted as written.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Patti White informed the members that Barbara Evans, long-time employee of the Senior Services Department will be retiring on September 17th.

Jennifer DiSette thanked Barbara for all of her hard work and dedication to the seniors and to the Age-Friendly Community initiative. Jennifer made a motion to have the Commission on Aging vote to give Barbara a Certificate of Appreciation for her commitment and service. The motion was seconded by Beth Hillson. Motion Carried.

LIAISON REPORTS: Barbara reported that due to COVID there would be no AARP meeting at this time.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Patti reported that senior programs were operating at approximately 50% of what they were pre-Covid and that Dial-A-Ride services were at approximately 70-80%.

Patti updated the members on the status of the Chores program, stating that grant funding for the program had been renewed by the grantor and that the program was growing. Currently the program has scheduled 63.5 hours of service for 19 unduplicated residents. Patti stated that additional volunteers are needed for outdoor yard work. Lisa has scheduled a meeting of several departments to brainstorm how to increase volunteer participation. Patti suggested that perhaps the COA could sponsor a Yard Clean Up Day with youth.

The Connecting Seniors to Technology program has been advertised in the Sharing Tree and requests for assistance are increasing.

Lisa Zerio reported that the Food Bank continues to assist Glastonbury residents in need thanks to generous donations to Glastonbury Gives – there were 93 Food Bank requests during August which were still in the form of gift cards due to COVID risks. Self -Select Food Pantry plans at the RCC are underway.

The Energy Assistance Program started on August 2 and the Homeowners Tax Program will start taking applications on February 2, 2022.

The Back-to School program was a success with games and fun activities for families with the Parks and Recreation department, Youth and Family and the Library all collaborating with Social Services. The plan is to keep the same format for future years.

“Eye Openers,” Low Vision Support Group is going well.

Lisa also informed the members that the town’s annual tag sale will take place on 9/25 with 31 booths in place.

OLD BUSINESS:

Age-Friendly Community Initiative:

AFC Action Plan

Tom and Patti provided an overall update on the draft documents of the Age-Friendly Action Plan asking for feedback on the plan to date and reviewing changes that had been made based on prior recommendations from members of the COA and CLT.

Logo Status

The members reviewed the logo design options and decided on two concepts; one that would be suited for things like letterhead, and one that might be best for a banner or other marketing displays.

Town Council Presentation

Lisa informed the members that the tentative plan is to present the AFC Action Plan to the Town Council at their meeting on 9/28 contingent upon the Town Manager’s review and the Town Council’s schedule.

9/22 Health Fair

Lisa stated that there will be many vendors, demos and presenters that will be participants in the health fair. Members of the COA volunteered to staff a town booth at the fair which will provide information on Senior and Social services programs as well as the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patti White, Acting Secretary

