

## **Commission on Aging**

**February 6, 2023**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Gayle Kataja, Denise Weeks, Susan Pearlman, Jennifer DiSette, Beth Hillson, Phil Markuszka.

**Liaisons:** Lisa Zerio, Director of Parks and Recreation

Patti White, Supervisor of Senior Services

**Call to Order-** Meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

**Review Minutes of January 9, 2023 meeting-** A motion was made to accept the minutes by Denise and seconded by Susan. Motion passed unanimously.

**Communications & Announcements-** Lisa informed the members of the upcoming Health and Wellness fair to be held at the RCC on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 2-7pm. Members discussed plans to have an Age-Friendly vendor table.

**Departmental Reports** (Attached)

**Old Business:**

**Age-Friendly Community Initiative**

- **Sub-committee reports**

#### **Housing:**

Gayle reported that the Housing committee would meet on February 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am at Center Village. Gayle is going to reach out to Chris Haaf to see if he is able to join.

#### **Transportation:**

Patti reported that the department had received two inquiries from prospective Dial-A-Ride drivers. The recent articles in the Citizen seem to be effectively informing the community as one of the driver inquiries came from a person who read about the department's need for drivers.

Patti will arrange a date for a Transportation Sub-committee meeting.

Denise will provide AARP best practice pedestrian safety information to the Town Engineer, Dan Pennington.

#### **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings:**

Lisa reported that the town was moving forward with the projects funded through the STEAP grant including the pavilion to be built adjacent to the Community Center. Accessibility to benches and other amenities are being planned as well.

Lisa will organize a meeting of the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Committees in the near future.

- **Meeting with Connecticut Age-Well Collaborative**

Gayle informed the members that Lisa, Patti and she met with the Director of the Connecticut Age-Well Collaborative, Alyssa, Norwood as well as Deb Stein. Gayle reported that it was a very productive meeting and that Alyssa praised Glastonbury for its work on the Age-Friendly Community initiative and encouraged the town to apply for their Wellspring award for a community that fosters aging, dementia and disability inclusivity.

Lisa and Gayle will meet to submit Glastonbury's Age-Friendly Community initiative as a nominee. The Connecticut Age Well Collaborative's first annual Wellspring Awards. Awards will be presented in-person at their event at the State Capitol on April 26. Nominations are due by February 10, 2023.

- **Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance Letter – follow-up**

Gayle reported that Shelley Caltagirone, the new Director of Planning and Land Use Services, attended the January 17, 2023 TPZ meeting and said that the department staff, forwarded the COA's letter to the TPZ, but draft inclusionary zoning regulations have not been put on their agenda at this time for discussion. Staff will update the Commission on Aging when the town moves forward with any public hearings on the issue.

- **Pedestrian Safety Letter to Town Council- follow-up**

The group discussed what to do as a follow-up to the Pedestrian Safety letter which the Commission sent to the Town Council. Lisa will follow up with the Town Manager.

- **Accreditation & Survey Update**

Lisa and Patti reported that the first meeting of the Accreditation Self-Assessment Committee went well and that a good deal of information was obtained from the participants that will be helpful with future strategic planning for the Senior Center.

Phil recommended that the center look into working with various restaurants to offer senior discounts. Lisa will reach out to the Chamber to see what might be possible.

Lisa informed the members that the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting would need to move to a different day due the Health and Wellness Fair scheduled for that day at the Community Center. The tentative date is March 31, 2023.

Patti reported that the mailed survey would be going out by the end of the week and the results would also help to inform future program and services planning.

**New Business:**

**Adjourn:** Motion by Denise seconded by Beth to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

## **Senior Services February 6<sup>th</sup> Report**

Trips in January included Maine Fish Market and the New England Air Museum

### **Upcoming Programs/Trips**

Many special events/trips are planned for the coming months including:

#### **Parties:**

- Valentine's Day Luncheon on 2/14 with entertainment by Gene's Comedy & Magic.
- Glastonbury High School Spring Drama Production, Legally Blonde, the Musical on 3/5
- St Patrick's Day Luncheon on 3/14,
- Swing into Spring Luncheon on 4/13.
- Bella Italia Night -Dinner and Dancing on Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Trips:**

- Bidwell Tavern and Munson's Chocolate Factory
- Carousel Museum and Museum of Fire History
- Mohegan Sun Casino
- Connecticut Historical Society
- The River Restaurant
- The Aqua Turf Club- Shake Rattle n' Roll performance and lunch
- East Windsor Trolley Museum

To date we have already scheduled nearly 150 appointments for the AARP tax preparation free service. Appointments begin on February 8<sup>th</sup> and are offered in the mornings on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Tai Ji Quan Moving for Better Balance classes will start on February 14<sup>th</sup> . This is a six-month class and goes through the end of July.

We have brought back our hearing screenings and wellness blood pressure clinics. Hearing screenings will occur every other month on Friday morning. Beginning in March the Wellness Clinics will occur on most Tuesday mornings. The foot clinic schedule is varied.

Dates for all of these clinics are posted in the Sharing Tree newsletter

Hot Soup is now available daily in the Café. Plans are underway to begin a Keurig coffee service in the café.

### **February 2023 Social Services Update (For January)**

- Food Bank and Fuel Bank continue to assist Glastonbury residents in need thanks to generous donations to Glastonbury Gives – there were 149 Food Bank requests during January 2023.
  - The Food Bank is up and ready for its first shoppers on February 2, 2023! There has been a tremendous community response with donations, community partnerships, and volunteers! More to come!
- The application period for the Energy Assistance Program (heating assistance) began in September 2022 and goes through May 2023. The last day for deliverable fuel is March 15, 2023. So far 281 applications have been completed and forwarded to CRT (Community Renewal Team) for processing. Award levels are decreased considerably from last year and we have just been notified that each household with deliverable fuel will receive an additional \$430. As numerous households have already exhausted their heating season allotment, the \$430.00 will be helpful but will not provide adequate assistance for the winter. After this is exhausted Operation Fuel is a possible resource and then Glastonbury Gives.
- The Homeowners Tax Credit Program will begin again in February 2023. Residents will receive letters letting know that they need to apply again from the Assessor's Office. Outreach Social Workers also assist residents with their applications and this affords an opportunity to explore other possible programs or resources. Additional Veteran's Exemption application period follows the same begin date. As of this time income guidelines and program information has not been provided.
- "Eye Openers," Low Vision Support Group January meeting had a speaker from the Better Hearing Center. The meeting was well attended with 10 in person participants and 5 Zoom participants in attendance.
- Planning is in process for the Health and wellness Fair in March and the Back to School Program in August. Social Service also has offered to assist the Glastonbury Police Department with the National Night Out Program in August.
- Social/Senior Services continues to distribute Test Kits/Face Masks to residents as requested. Covid tests (provided by the Health Department) were offered to all residents participating in the Holiday Programs.
- Social Workers continue offering information, referral and assistance regarding many topics including Medicare, CT Dept. of Social Services benefits, housing and homecare

