

GLASTONBURY COMMISSON ON AGING

SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

5:00 P.M.

In-Person-RCC

Gayle Kataja, Chair
Jennifer DiSette, Vice Chair
Chris Haaf
Beth Hillson
Phil Markuszka
Susan Pearlman
Denise Weeks

1. **ROLL CALL:** Attended: Gayle Kataja, Jennifer DiSette, Beth Hillson, Phil Markuszka, Susan Pearlman. Chris Haaf, Denise Weeks absent. Ronda Guberman, Senior Center Supervisor in attendance. Gwenn Winkler attended as a guest.
2. **MINUTES** of the April 1, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Susan Pearlman made a motion to accept and Jennifer DiSette seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:** were submitted in the packets for April 2024.
4. **SENIOR CENTER SUPERVISOR REPORT:**
 - a. **ARPA Grant Received:** The Town received approval for the ARPA grant in the amount of \$91,967. The grant will include funding for: fitness center equipment, enhancements to the main lobby and, if funds are available, café equipment purchases to expand the menu. Unfortunately, the State Unit on Aging sent an email today alerting us that the funding may be cut by the State Legislature. Awaiting news.
 - b. **DOT Municipal Aging Grant Submitted:** A grant was submitted to the DOT for the Municipal Aging Grant which helps to fund operating salaries of the Dial-a-Ride program. The grant covers state fiscal years 2025-2028.
 - c. **Kathy Carfi, Social Services Supervisor Retirement:** Kathy Carfi is retiring and the Town is working on revising the job description and will then post the position.
 - d. **Lunch Registration:** Prior to COVID advance registration for lunch was required. Due to the increasing food costs and unpredictability of the number of lunch guests, we are resuming advance reservations. This can be done in person at the kitchen, by phone or on MyRec. Melanie will plan to prepare a few extra meals so that no one is turned away. Meals are served from 11:45 – 12:15.
 - e. **Kitchen Cleaning (week of July 1 – 5, 2024).** Melanie will be on vacation during this time. Facilities will deep clean the kitchen (walls, floors, hood, etc) and make flooring repairs in the community room. The café will be open this week and we are planning a pizza party and a hot dog bingo as well.

Theme: “The Power of Connection”, the impact of creating meaningful relationships and social connections for health and well-being. A pasta bar lunch will be served. There will be a showcase of art classes, fitness demos, pickleball and bocce lessons and more. Gayle offered to sit at the COA table.

- g. LGBTQ+ Moveable Senior Center River Cruise (June 11, 2024): Six individuals have registered for this event (most attended our Creative Cocktail Hour in February). Ideas for a Fall event include: apple picking, vineyard, hiking.
- h. Pride Day Community Event (June 9, 2024): Sponsored by TALK from 3:00 – 7:00 at Hubbard Park. Gayle, Beth and Phil will staff the table. Ronda will provide flyers for our Moveable Senior Center River Cruise event on June 11th to help publicize.

5. Old Business

- o **Age Friendly Community Initiative Sub-Committee Reports**
Housing Subcommittee:

- a. Gayle reported that the committee met and has two new members: Corey Turner and Carl Stenman. Both have excellent experience in the field of housing and construction.
- b. The committee will focus on information sharing, advocacy and support.
 - Transportation Subcommittee: Beth Hillson reported that she is in the process of drafting a letter to Dan Pennington supporting the recommendations from the bike/walk committee. She will share the draft for approval prior to sending. The committee is going to form an ad-hoc group of volunteers who will walk/bike the town to report areas of concern that need to be addressed. They have one volunteer already. The Putnam Bridge bike path is opening on Thursday, May 9 at 1:30.
 - Outdoor Spaces and Building: Jennifer reported that the group met and discussed benches and advertising the Legacy Program more, trail accessibility, and Farm Day. They may sponsor a Farm Day Bingo event where people visit local farms and get a sticker. Farms will give prizes. Ronda suggested running a trip on the Dial-a-Ride bus to visit all the farms. Next meeting of Outdoor Spaces is June 5th.

6. New Business

- a. LGBTQ+ Training Video: Members watched the final video and discussed.
- 7. **Adjournment:** Motion made by Phil Markuszka and seconded by Susan Pearlman to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.
 - 8. **Next Scheduled Meeting:** Monday, June 3, 2024, 5:30 PM