

GLASTONBURY COMMISSON ON AGING

SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

5:30 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, Susan Pearlman, Denise Weeks. Absent: Chris Haaf, and Phil Markuszka.
Lisa Zerio, Director, Parks & Recreation, Ronda Guberman, Senior Center Supervisor in attendance.
2. **MINUTES** of the June 3, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Denise Weeks made a motion to accept and Susan Pearlman seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:** were submitted in the packets for June, July and August 2024.
4. **SENIOR CENTER SUPERVISOR REPORT:**
 - a. ARPA Grant Update: The Town was granted \$91,967 which will be used to purchase fitness center equipment and make improvements to the lobby with comfortable seating for gathering and socialization.
 - b. Foot Care: Katie Goshdigian, a new foot care nurse will begin offering weekly appointments starting in October.
 - c. Friendship Circle: Participation remains at 8 individuals per day and has a waiting list. The program is facilitated by a staff member along with 1-3 volunteers.
 - d. Poet Laureate: The new Glastonbury Poet Laureate, Victoria Norlund has several poetry workshops planned including an autumn and a grief poetry writing class.
5. **Old Business**
 - **Age Friendly Community Initiative Sub-Committee Reports**
 - Housing Subcommittee: Did not meet this summer.
 - Transportation Subcommittee: Did not meet in the summer. Beth submitted a report of accomplishments made by the committee which will be included in the final report to AARP.
 - Outdoor Spaces and Building: Did not meet this summer.

2025 Age Friendly Initiatives: Discussion about continuing COA support for education and advocacy regarding affordable housing as well as safe pedestrian and bicycle roadways. Future domains and goals will be discussed at the October meeting.

6. New Business

- a. Staffing Update: Kathy Carfi and Theresa Buckson both retired this summer. Evelyn Lopez has been promoted to the Social Services Supervisor position. Kim Tanguay has accepted the full-time Social Worker position and began working September 5th. Interviews for the part-time Social Worker position will be held on Thursday. Senior Services currently has two openings: part-time Program Coordinator and part-time Customer Service Rep. Interviews for both positions will be held this week
- b. Membership Discussion: Lisa and Ronda are conducting research to increase the age of participation in Senior Center activities to age 55 (from age 50). Many classes/activities are currently at maximum capacity. Staff is also researching the possibility of instituting a Senior Center membership. Most Senior Centers in Connecticut have resident and non-resident memberships; some towns do not allow non-residents to participate in their town's Senior Center. It was requested that a written document be presented at the next COA meeting with details regarding establishing a formal membership including a proposal for raising the age to 55.

7. **Adjournment:** Motion made by Beth Hillson and seconded by Jennifer DiSette to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

7. **Next Scheduled SPECIAL Meeting:** Monday, October 7, 2024, 5:30 p.m.