

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 15, 2020**

Attending: Patricia Burns, Presiding; Kip Burgweger; Carol Burns; James Dougherty; Anne Marie Hynes; Steve Katz; Ellen Wolfson.  
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich

Call To  
Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the November 20, 2019 Meeting were distributed. It was suggested that the word “potentially” be added after the word “may” in the first line of the Dept. Of Human Services report.  
A Motion was made to approve the Minutes with the suggested addition.  
Seconded and Carried with P. Burns abstaining as she did not attend the meeting.

Dept. Of  
Human  
Services: E. Wolfson reported that there are changes to qualification for the SNAP program. The Department has hired a new Spanish speaking caseworker. They expect a caseload of between 60 and 65 per caseworker.

Nathaniel  
Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that, as planned, the Executive Director left at the end of December. Two other administrators have been placed on administrative leave.

Friends of the  
Senior Center: P. Burns reported that a person who has expressed interest is being considered as a new member of the Friends.

Budget: The fiscal 2020-2021 budget as approved by the Commission was submitted by the Town. After initial positive feedback, our request for \$10,600 for an additional part-time position was cut at the Selectman’s budget level. A discussion was had on how to get the message of our needs to the right person or people. The need for the additional position is driven by the implementation of the Age Friendly Greenwich initiative. Without the position something will have to give. It could be cutting back or eliminating the Medicare counseling program.

Senior Center  
Administrator: L. Helmrich reported on issues with the Town issued parking permits for Senior Center members. There has been some abuse and she is trying to limit the Sale of permits to those who regularly use Senior Center programs. Laurette is in the process of compiling 2 years of TAG use data. It is not finalized but it is clear that we are paying a large sum of money for a very small number of regular riders. We will be working on setting up the ability of the Friends account to accept credit card payments. We recently had an inter-generational program that was very successful. The new circuit training program in cooperation with the YWCA (our instructor, their facility) has started and is at capacity. The next cook-off competition will be a cupcake wars.

Commission  
Directors  
Report: L. Contadino reported that we are using the First Selectman’s eblast to highlight the Senior Tax Relief program and are looking into other ways of publicizing the

program. Lori has emailed individuals and organizations about joining task groups to implement the Age Friendly initiative, looking to get more community leaders and organizations involved. Lori is reaching out to chairs and co-chairs to draft a time line. She is speaking with someone who has written a dementia friendly curriculum for first responders to see if we might use it in Greenwich. Greenwich Taxi has gotten rid of its 9 passenger van as it was not being used enough. The Senior Resource Guide is being edited and reformatted. A new sponsor, CareFinders has signed up. The Late Life Committee will meet in May. The next big seniors event will be a Foot and Fiddle Hoe Down in May. The next Distinguished Speaker event will be Dr. Dale Atkins in June at the YWCA. Dr. Donna Coletti will speak at an upcoming event. A thank you meeting and lunch will be held on January 24 for our volunteer counselors.

Annual

Meeting:

The annual meeting will be held in April Ellen Wolfson and Kip Burgweger agreed to again serve as the nominating committee.

New

Business:

E. Wolfson reported that an organization called Jane Doe No More that does programs designed to instruct women on how to fend off or prevent attacks is willing to talk about possibly doing a similar program for seniors.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be at 8:30 on February 19, 2020

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty  
Secretary