

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
MINUTES  
January 18, 2017**

Attending: Commissioners: Patricia Burns, Presiding; Catherine (Kate) Brennan; James Dougherty (required to depart early); Francis (Kip) Burgweger; Carol Burns.  
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich, Chicky Krois.

Unable to Attend: Wendy Blumenthal; Steven Katz.

Guests: Christine Edwards; Nick Edwards.

Call To

Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:40 AM. At this point, a quorum was not present.

Senior Center  
Administrator's

Report: Laurette Helmrich reported that the Senior Center will be receiving a new telephone system next week. At this point, Kate Brennan arrived, creating a quorum. The fee for lunch has not been raised for 10 years, and Laurette recommended increasing the fee for lunch from \$4.00 to \$5.00. Other senior centers have raised their fees for meals. The increase in the charge for a meal will become effective July 1, 2017. The extra dollar will go to pay the cost of meals currently provided by Morrison which now cost between \$12 and \$14 per meal. Membership in the Senior Center is currently available to residents age 55 and above. Age 55 seems to be too young, and Laurette recommended increasing the age to 62.

**MOTION:** The cost of a meal for residents at the Senior Center shall be increased from \$4.00 to \$5.00, and the minimum age for eligibility for membership in the Senior Center shall be increased from 55 to 62. Seconded. Carried.

At this point, J. Dougherty departed for an appearance in court, leaving the meeting without a quorum.

Sample

Meals: There are various food services available to Town residents whereby meals can be ordered and delivered to individual homes. One source is Mom's Meals which operates out of New Jersey. Lori Contadino reported that we ordered a sample of meals from Mom's Meals which resulted in delivery of a packet containing 14 days of fresh food weighing approximately 40 pounds. We requested samples and received 20 different entrées. Some of these entrées were for breakfast, and samples were provided for tasting by the Commission. At this point, Carol Burns arrived, reconstituting a quorum. Mom's Meals provides foods to satisfy various diets and various types of cuisine, but the downside is the heavy weight of the packet. Members of the staff have tried several of the meals and enjoyed most of them. At this meeting, members of the Commission tried four different breakfast samples. The purpose of ordering the samples was not to replace Meals on

Wheels but to become cognizant of available food services. Meals from Mom's Meals run \$6.99 per meal. Laurette reported that water aerobics are now available at the Boys and Girls Club.

Director's  
Report:

Lori Contadino reported on senior tax relief. It is the beginning of a new tax year, and applications for relief must be filed between February 1 and May 15. Chicky Krois contacted the Town assessor and found that applications for filing have not yet been posted. Greenwich's application for the AARP Age Friendly Community has been accepted as the first community in Connecticut. We have proposed working with Columbia University on Phase 2 of this program. There is a new faculty advisor for this program who is very excited over the opportunity. Phase 2 is a meaty project. It involves, among other things, creating an action plan and activating stakeholders. There will be a meeting on February 1 with the Columbia team. The goal is to be at the assessment stage of the program by the Fall. Selectman John Toner will be the liaison from the Board of Selectmen to the Commission on this initiative. On February 1, there will be a meeting at the Senior Center of the Senior Provider Network to line up stakeholders. Patricia Burns and Steve Katz comprise the Age Friendly Committee. Medicare counseling resulted in at least 40% of the people realizing savings and over \$148,000 saved. We will seek more volunteers for training and assistance on supplemental insurance questions. We have had meetings with Uber regarding transportation for seniors. The next meeting will be on January 23. Other older adult organizations have expressed great interest in utilizing Uber services. The Committee on Disabilities wants to meet with the representative of Uber. As interest increases, hopefully this will motivate Uber to provide a service for older adults. The Connecticut Uber app can schedule rides in advance. We are working with Uber to be able to set up multiple accounts on a single iPad. Currently, the number of riders needing assistance exceeds the number of trained drivers. Also, the wait is longer, and the fare will be higher due to increased demand. Uber will not be a replacement for TAG or other services that exist, but it can serve as an alternative. We met with the Greenwich Hospital in December after receiving approval as an Age Friendly Community. The hospital is a 100% supporter and wants to be a stakeholder. The Connecticut Alzheimer's Association is also interested in connecting with Greenwich and the Senior Center. We are also working on qualifying as a Dementia Friendly Community. Late life issues include a conference and Older Americans Month celebration in May and a distinguished lecture in June. There's more good news. We are working with faith communities. St. Catherine's distributed 350 of our directories, and the Monsignor mentioned Lori Contadino and The Commission on Aging by name from the pulpit. The church is also using 50 directories for a special workshop. We are now working to involve Christ Church Greenwich and Temple Shalom in these efforts. We would like Christ Church to make our directory available to parishioners.

Social  
Services:

Carol Burns reported that Social Services has been working on a client tracker database. The department purchased a model and has customized it for its own needs.

Next

Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be held on February 15, 2017.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 9:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Francis J. Burgweger, Jr.*

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Acting Secretary