

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

Attending: Patricia Burns, Presiding; Carol Burns; Kip Burgweger; James Dougherty; Steven Katz; Ellen Wolfson
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.
Guest: Demetria Nelson, Commissioner Greenwich Department of Human Services; Dana Gordon

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

Minutes: Minutes of the January, 2021 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. It was noted that the word “been” should be between the words “have” and “fielding” in the Commission Director’s Report on Page 2, six lines from the bottom of the page. With that correction a Motion was made to approve the minutes. The Motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

Chair’s Report: P. Burns reported. A discussion was had on the Lantern Newsletter with a belief that it needs to be updated for a more attractive, fun, contemporary image. The future direction, in terms of hard copy or digital, was also discussed. It was noted that a more attractive lantern could help the Friends group in its publicity and fund raising efforts. It was decided that it would be helpful to have a board member work with Bobbi Eggers on the project.

Nominating Committee: The committee of E. Wolfson and K. Burgweger presented the following as the proposed slate of officers:
Chair: Steven Katz
Vice-Chair: Ann Marie Hynes
Secretary: James Dougherty
The slate will be voted on at the April meeting.

Dept. Of Human Services: E. Wolfson reported that the Department held its meeting last night. The new chair of the 501 (c)(3) foundation, Monica Bruning, was introduced. Its fundraising was down in the past year from about \$140,000 to \$107,000. It was reported that River House has switched some of its transportation from TAG, so TAG’s revenue is down. River House is looking to purchase its own vans for some of its transportation needs. .

Nathaniel Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that the last meeting was held on January 25. At that time 85% of residents and 30% of staff had received the COVID vaccine.

Friends of The Senior Center: P. Burns reported that the new board consisting of Patricia Burns, James

Dougherty, Stuart Adelberg, Alessandra Messineo-Long, Penny Lore, Mimi Santry and Amy Mooney held its first meeting. It was suggested that targeted ads to potential donors be created. It was also suggested that short video clips of real life Senior Center stories be developed. It was also noted that we need to decide on an image to put forth.

Senior
Center:

L. Helmrich reported.

Teddy's Ready Drive Thru

" Next drive through lunch will be Friday February 26, 2021

" Weekly in March

299 to You

" The next packet is Hidden Clues scheduled to go out in March 2021

Senior Center Cares Act

" The Senior Center will be receiving \$2,459.00 in reimbursement for supplies that were purchased to facilitate programming during the pandemic.

Comedy Night

" February 26th at 7:00pm on Zoom

Commission
Directors
Report:

L. Contadino reported:

COVID-19 Vaccine

On January 14th State of CT residents 75 and older became eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine under Phase 1b of Governor Lamont's vaccination rollout plan, and on February 11th, residents 65 and older also became eligible.

Appointments to receive vaccine can be scheduled as follows:

For appointments* at Brunswick School Sampson Fieldhouse or 500 West Putnam Avenue**

Yale New Haven Health: <https://covidvaccine.ynhh.org/>

Or Yale COVID Hotline 1-833-275-9644, Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Yale New Haven Health System must follow state guidance that only Connecticut residents OR patients of the YNHH System who live outside Connecticut are eligible for vaccination at their sites.

**YNHH also administers clinics in other areas of the state.

For appointments at Stamford Hospital

Stamford Health:

<https://www.stamfordhealth.org/covid-19-update/covid-19-vaccination-information/#eligibility>

Or Stamford Health 203-276-7300, Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Individuals must be age-eligible and live or work in CT.

For Appointments at Greenwich Town Hall, Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Lord & Taylor Parking Lot Drive-Through (Stamford) and other locations in the area individuals must register and schedule an appointment through the State of CT VAMS (Vaccine Administration Management System)

<https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine/>

Or CT COVID Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line 1-877-918-2224, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. A call-back option will be offered when contact specialists are busy assisting other callers.

Residents can also call 211 for assistance

Hearing Impaired dial 711

Special Notes:

Yale New Haven Health and Stamford Health do require an email for online registration BUT a couple can use the same email or the email of a family member.

State of CT VAMS system requires a unique email for each person registering. While it is encouraged that people receive their 2nd dose of vaccine at the clinic where the first dose was administered IT IS NOT REQUIRED!

Residents needing transportation can contact TAG 203-637-4345 for reservations (\$6 round trip) or Share-the-Fare Vouchers can be used for use with Greenwich Taxi for travel within Greenwich. Taxi Vouchers can be purchased from the Commission on Aging 203-862-6710.

For many, the process of registering has not been easy. The staff and volunteers of the Commission on Aging have assisted over 550 residents since January 14th.

AGE FRIENDLY GREENWICH:

Lori Contadino and Steve Katz met with Bill Armbruster, our AARP National Advisor to discuss Action Plan Year 1 Reporting. A meeting of the full Advisory Board has been scheduled for will be scheduled for late February and Task Group meetings will resume immediately following so Year 2 Action Plan strategy can be developed and Task Groups can begin meeting.

FY22 Proposed Budget Presentation to BET Budget Committee

Commission on Aging and Senior Center proposed FY22 Budgets were presented to the BET Budget Committee on February 16th via Zoom. Departmental efforts during COVID-19 were recognized, programmatic changes due to the pandemic were discussed and planning for the future was explored.

Draft Re-Entry Plan

Lori and Laurette will begin drafting a "Return To 299" plan with the help of Steve Katz

299 To You

A video collage was shared that was put together to highlight the Senior Center Activities that continue during the shut down.

Senior Tax

Relief: K. Burgweger reported that a flyer on the availability of the program was sent out and that the legal notice of the program appeared in the Greenwich Time.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be at 8:30 on March 17, 2021

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

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary