

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2021**

Attending: Steven Katz, Presiding; Kip Burgweger; James Dougherty; Ann Marie Hynes; Amy Jurkowitz; Ellen Wolfson
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.
Guests: Greenwich United Way - David Rabin; Rob Moore; Jeremy Nappi

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.

Minutes: Minutes of the May, 2021 meeting were distributed. The Chair asked if there were any corrections. The following typos were noted: Under Chair's Report the first word in the fifth line should be "a" not "ma"; under New Business in the fourth line the word "has" should be "had". With those corrections, the Chair noted the Minutes as accepted

Chair's Report: S. Katz deferred his report to give time to the guest speakers.

Dept. Of Human Services: E. Wolfson reported that the Department held its meeting last night. Patti Roberts was elected as the new Chair. They are establishing an interdisciplinary committee with the police department to deal with people with mental health issues to help prevent escalation of incidents. Lori Contadino will be joining the meeting. They noted a small drop in referrals.

Nathaniel Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that they have not met since our last meeting

SWCCA: A.M. Hynes reported that the annual meeting will be tomorrow.

Friends of The Senior Center: A. M. Hynes reported the Friends Board met on Monday. The meeting focused on naming/funding opportunities for the renovated facility.

Senior Center: L. Helmrich reported.
Teddy's Ready Drive Thru
Weekly lunches continue and 1st Catered lunch took place.
Re Open
Outdoor programs continue. Building reopened on June 1st with 1 art class. Additional indoor programs will be added in July
Demolition
Demolition and asbestos abatement has begun on the lower level and 1st floor lounges.

Commission
Directors

Report:

L. Contadino reported

Re-Opening - We continue to update guidelines for reopening as needed. Signed Liability Waivers and Acknowledgments are being returned and our outdoor, zoom and indoor programs are all going well.

Dementia Friends - Three Dementia Friends Educational sessions were planned this month. The first session was hosted by River House for new staff members, the second session was hosted by YWCA Greenwich (15 people in attendance) and next week, Perot Library will be hosting an evening Dementia Friends session on June 23rd. All of the June sessions were co-facilitated by Me and Donna Spellman. Additional sessions will be scheduled as move forward.

Caregivers Circle - As you know, Caregivers Circle is a collaborative endeavor of the Greenwich Commission on Aging and River House. The Junior League of Greenwich and Greenwich Red Cross were founding partners in the creation of this program over 10 years ago. On June 22nd a special Caregivers Circle program will be held at Binney Park under the Gazebo. Loyalty Fitness will lead a special stretch and stress reduction class - free of charge for family caregivers.

Health Insurance Counseling - Large number of Town retirees needing assistance in comparing Town retirement insurance plan with original Medicare. Training our certified counselors to be able to assist.

Medicare D Open Enrollment - A meeting of our counseling team will be scheduled to plan for our Open Enrollment. Two individuals are currently enrolled in training to become certified through the State which will position us beautifully with 7 fully certified counselors and 2 season counselors on our team.

Contracts - We are currently reviewing all contracts with our Risk Manager as Town insurance requirements have changed slightly.

Share The Fare - Exploring the feasibility of expanding Share the Fare program to include adults with permanent disabilities in alignment with what we did with the Senior Tax Relief Ordinance. Lori will be working with the First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities to verify need and determine potential utilization.

Age Friendly

Greenwich:

L. Contadino reported that 5 of the 7 task groups have met and appear to be on target to meet the action items for the year.

Senior Tax

Relief:

K. Burgweger reported that the number of applicants has decreased from 700 to 800 ten years ago to 511 last year. It is unknown as to why the numbers have dropped. The current program expires at the end of June 2024 and must be extended by the end of December 2023.

Transportation: No report.

Guests:

David Rabin, Rob Moore and Jeremy Nappi from the United Way gave a presentation on the United Way 2020 Needs Assessment. The Assessment is

available online and is updated as needed. An overview of the United Way including its history and mission was presented. The top three needs identified were: Affordable Housing, Education and Mental and Physical Health. A demonstration of the online Assessment was presented with the focus on sections of the Assessment dealing with the elderly.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be at 8:30 on July 21, 2021

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary
