

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

- Attending: Steven Katz, Presiding; Kip Burgweger; Carol Burns; James Dougherty; Ann Marie Hynes; Amy Jurkowitz; Ellen Wolfson  
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich  
Guests: Janet Stone McGuigan
- Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.
- Minutes: Minutes of the July, 2021 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any corrections. With no corrections mentioned, the Chair noted the Minutes as accepted.
- Chair's Report: S. Katz reported that the Morrison food contract has been terminated. Options for both a food provider and a consultant to help finalize the design of the kitchen and dining areas are being explored. Demolition and asbestos abatement of the areas has been completed. COVID and its Delta variant have complicated re-opening plans. All towns in Connecticut are supposed to have a Municipal Agent for the Elderly. Greenwich has not had anyone in the position for some time. It has been proposed that Lori Contadino be appointed to that position as she already performs all of the duties. The sub-committee on the 2022-2023 budget will be meeting with a goal of presenting a proposed budget to the Commission at the November meeting. This budget will be tricky due to COVID and our change in business model. The committee will look to add a marketing/promotion line to the budget. It was suggested that two additional reports be added to our monthly Agenda - Kitchen/Dining Renovation and Marketing.
- Dept. Of Human Services: E. Wolfson reported that the Department has not held a meeting since our last meeting and therefore there is no report.
- Nathaniel Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that an RFP has been put out for a new food service. 95% of staff have had at least one dose of vaccine and 88% are now fully vaccinated. Financially they are in the best shape in a long time and occupancy numbers are good.
- SWCCA: A.M. Hynes reported that the Tufts Health Care Foundation has awarded a one year grant to help develop a master system to coordinate services.
- Friends of The Senior Center: J. Dougherty reported that members of the Friends continue to explore fundraising and facility naming possibilities.

Senior  
Center:

L. Helmrich reported:

**Drive Thru Lunches**

Taste of the Town continues with weekly lunches with 3 new restaurants added. Approximately 150 people have attended each drive through.

**Re Open**

Daily programs have begun in the Center with more to be added in September  
Response has been very positive  
Outdoor programs continue

**Demolition**

Demolition and asbestos abatement has been completed  
Work continues

**New Kitchen**

Meeting has been set up with a consulting group to discuss new kitchen and RFP

Commission  
Directors  
Report:

L. Contadino reported

**Operations:**

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Senior Center operating protocols remained uniform in the southwest region and state of Connecticut. Greater program variability is now evident with some Centers remaining closed, some operating in a conservative/hybrid fashion and others utilizing a more liberal approach offering indoor dining and group transportation. We will continue to add programs to our indoor roster of offerings as appropriate. The safety of older adults, staff and volunteers remains our primary focus and concern

**Health Insurance Counseling:**

Health Insurance Counseling will be conducted remotely again this year. We've updated the online registration form for existing Medicare clients and for individuals new to Medicare. We've included an updated liability waiver and scheduling options within the online form as well. The online submittal generates an appointment request and indicates what specific guidance a resident needs.

**Durable Medical Equipment Drive:**

The Commission on Aging has partnered with Wheel It Forward and will be hosting a drive thru - drop off durable medical equipment drive on Saturday, September 25th from 9 - 1 at the Greenwich Senior Center. Gently used medical equipment can be donated and a receipt for tax purposes will be provided by Wheel it Forward. Brunswick School recently launched a Wheel It Forward Club and the Brunswick students will not only be volunteering to assist on-site on the 25th, they also are helping to spread awareness about the event by posting on social media and sharing with friends and family.

**TechCONNECTT:**

The TechCONNECTT pilot program scheduled to launch today has been postponed until next Wednesday, September 22, 2020. Greenwich Country Day School faculty and students will offer day 1 of the core curriculum to program participants and will open the class to any older adult that wishes to attend free of

charge. Additionally, one-on-one assistance is available by appointment. This level of tech-support provides the ongoing assistance that some may need to troubleshoot issues and gain greater digital literacy.

**Branding:**

Thank you to Amy for providing a framework for how best to begin approaching the branding of our operation.

Age Friendly: An Advisory Committee meeting will be held to jump start the task groups.

Senior Tax

Relief: K. Burgweger reported that the current relief provisions expire on December 31, 2023. Prior to then work will be needed to extend the program.

Transportation:

C. Burns reported that over the summer data collection continued and alternate transportation options continue to be explored.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be at 8:30 on October 20, 2021

Adjournment:             
The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty  
Secretary