

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2020**

- Attending: Patricia Burns, Presiding; Carol Burns; Kip Burgweger; James Dougherty; Ann Marie Hynes; Steven Katz; Ellen Wolfson
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.
Guest: Dr. Gina Gladstein (COA SNAC Rep.); Tom McGuire (Nathaniel Witherell Family Council)
- Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. The meeting was held by Zoom.
- Minutes: Minutes of the October meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A typo was noted in line 8 of the Senior Center Report - the word “deceased” should be “deceased”. Withe 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 that renovations are progressing. Preliminary plans for the kitchen, service line and dining room were presented to the Commission. The project will go out to bid in January. Morrison has provide input on the plan based on its needs. A discussion was had on the cashless system and design input.
- Budget: The 2021-2022 Commission on Aging Budget was presented by L. Contadino. The budget reflects a return to normal operations. The 7.9% increase reflects a one-time correction to a carried forward salary error. Most other budget lines were held at the current year level.
The 2021-2022 Senior Center Budget was presented by L. Helmrich. Salary lines have been increased according to contractual obligations. It was noted that the Transportation (TAG) line should be on 52130. Most budget lines were held at current year levels resulting in a total budget increase of 2.82%. A Motion was made to adopt the Commission On Aging and Senior Center Budgets as presented. The Motion was seconded and unanimously carried.
- Dept. Of Human Services: E. Wolfson reported that the Department has received approval to increase its Board from 7 to 9 members. Overall the referrals to the department are up only slightly for the current fiscal year compared to the last fiscal year.
- Nathaniel Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that Nathaniel; Witherell has not reported any new resident COVID cases but some employees are out on COVID quarantine. The resident population is down which reflects a national trend during COVID. They have a new Director of Infection Control. They are working on a new visitor policy. They have a request for management services out for bid.
- SWCAA: A.M. Hynes reported that due to COVID, many grants were not used and they are looking to reallocate those grants. It was reported that many younger older adults have been sing medicare counseling but are applying online themselves.

Senior
Center:

Credit Card Update

" The final step is PCI compliance which is in process

Teddy's Ready Drive Thru

" The Nov 13th drive lunch served 155 members

" Next drive through lunch will be Thanksgiving which will take place Monday November 23rd. 185 members will be served

" Planning for the Christmas/New Year's Eve holiday lunches are underway

299 to You

" The next packet is scheduled to go out in early December to 151 members who have opted in

Video Intercom/Surveillance

" Awaiting installation of Video Intercom/Surveillance System

" Three cameras will be installed - Front Door, Ramp and Back Door

" The front door system will include an intercom which will include a master station at the front desk and a sub master station in the office

" All cameras will be connected to the network for viewing on the desk monitors

Banners and Signage

" Multiple banners, posters and lawn signs were created and delivered to us free of charge from the CDC

Commission
Directors
Report:

VIRTUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING

Open Enrollment for Medicare D October 15 - December 7

Virtual Health Insurance Counseling is going well. The time invested by Maria in assisting residents with the creation of their MyMedicare.gov accounts has helped tremendously. Counselors have access to accurate medication profiles which automatically transition into the Medicare Plan Finder. The online forms are widely being used and are often emailed to residents for completion if they are tech savvy. We've seen approximately 200 individuals thus far. A few inconsistencies have been reported with the Plan Finder, but no far-reaching/global issues. We continue to screen all volunteers upon entry into the building.

SPONSORS and SPECIAL DRIVE THRU EVENTS:

The Halloween event was a large-scale success. Great press coverage and many happy older adults.

Commission on Aging Sponsors are providing the dessert to nearly 200 residents for the Thanksgiving Drive Thru feast. Full size apple pies will be given to each household with a special Thanksgiving Card from our sponsors. Greenwich Hospital, Osborne Home Care and the Chief of Police are our sponsor volunteers.

FOOD SECURITY

Neighbor to Neighbor reached out to the Commission on Aging regarding interest on the part of Courtnay's Kitchen in Greenwich - to do something special for older adult residents at Thanksgiving. Courtnay is providing 100 residents with full Thanksgiving Dinner. Seniors were given a choice of traditional roast turkey with dressing and all the trimmings or Turkey Pot Pie with all the trimmings which will be delivered to their homes on November 25th between 3 - 5 p.m. This is in addition to the folks who will be receiving a meal from First Presbyterian Church. I collaborated with the Department of Human Services to ensure no duplication. We are grateful to Courtnay for her thoughtfulness and generosity and to First Presbyterian Church as well.

AGE FRIENDLY GREENWICH:

Cover photo for the Age Friendly Action plan has been selected and a template of the report created by New Leaf Design. Bob Capazzo, a local professional photographer has offered to give us as many photos of Greenwich the plan requires free of charge. Our designer, Kim Baron, is working directly with Bob Capazzo and he will be credited for his contribution within the Action Plan.

CAREGIVERS CIRCLE:

Held our first Caregivers Circle program since March, sponsored by Greenwich Library, yesterday. The topic "Caregiving, COVID and the Holidays" was presented by Amy Burckhard, Director of Memory Care at Sterling Care and a second session will be held on Saturday, November 21st at 10:00 a.m. Interested individuals are required to register through Greenwich Library to receive the zoom meeting link.

FRIENDLY CALLS:

Greenwich Country Day School has matched 35 seniors who expressed interest in receiving regular calls with interested students and families. Callers will follow the same framework as those that participated in Hello Neighbor and Bridging the Generations programs. Altice has committed to closing the digital divide among school age children by offering installation/wiring for internet connectivity at \$15.00 per month. Greenwich Country Day School (Jen Donnalley) has arranged that that offer be extended to us for reducing the digital divide among older adults. GCDS will gift \$ for this purpose to the COA (Friends of the GSC). As we add seniors to the pilot, the invoice from Altice will be paid from the funds gifted to us from GCDS.

Senior Tax

Relief: K. Burgweger reported that there was no report.

Transportation:

C. Burns reported that there was no report.

Guest:

Tom McGuire of the Nathaniel Witherell Family Council reported the Council's concerns over the Town putting out the request for management services. He will stay in touch with Lori regarding any developments.

Next Meeting:

There will be no meeting in December.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary