

**Commission on the Aging  
4 Brush Hill Road  
New Fairfield, Ct 06812**

**Meeting Minutes  
New Fairfield Senior Center  
Tuesday January 25,2022  
7:30pm  
Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting Moderator:** Paul Gouveia

**Members in Attendance**

Cindy La Cour, Kathy Hull, Julia MacMillan, Janet Loya, Roberta Ilardo, Cathy McCarthy, & Maureen Salerno. Lisa Zustovich took the meeting minutes.

Guest- Ava Cerbone, WCSU Social Worker major (doing her rotation at the Senior Center with Kathy Hull)

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Motion to approve Minutes**

Approve the December 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes- Discussed amendments to be made. Cindy La Cour made a motion to approve the 12/7/21 meeting minutes as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julia MacMillan, all in favor.

**Approved**

**Correspondence/Announcements**

Invitation to the Senior Center White Elephant Auction, Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm; RSVP by 2/4/22, (203) 312-5665. Snow date Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>

**Old Business**

**Goals and objectives for the fiscal year 2021-2022-** Maureen Salerno stated she feels disconnected as a Commission from the senior population since the pandemic and has been trying to think of a way to get connected. Kathy Hull stated that seniors have grown tired of zoom and virtual events.

Discussed how the Senior Center would call seniors to connect with them during the pandemic. Cindy La Cour offered to make calls to seniors on weekends. Discussed the effects of the pandemic on seniors and isolation. Maureen would like the Commission members to continue to try and come up with a goal or objective they need to bring to the Town again.

**New Business**

**Outreach Programs-** Reaching seniors that do not go to the senior center and reaching out to seniors thru the churches was discussed. Maureen commented that prior to the pandemic the Commission did a lot of great outreach programs. Janet Loya asked Kathy Hull if she had gotten any feedback about unmet needs from seniors. Kathy said more help with transportation was one. People seemed to be not utilizing the Sweetheart bus as much as they could, not sure of the reason. Now that FISH is getting up and running, that will give seniors another resource for transportation. Kathy said the Senior Center also gets a lot of call about Home Health Care. Maureen said she will be meeting with Father Tim this week.

**Sub-Committee Reports**

**Housing-** Per Anita Brown's email they will be meeting with WestCog on Thursday this week. The BOS appointed an Ad Hoc committee for affordable elderly housing.

**Senior Center Listening Session-** Roberta Ilardo said she had one woman come and talk to her at the last session. Not sure yet if they will have a listening session in February yet.

**Taxes-**Janet Loya- Taxes are due by the end of this month. 280 accounts are taking advantage of the senior tax benefits out of 2310 seniors living in town. Per Janet the benefits are good for 2 years and will need to be renewed this Spring (in May) for the 2022. Seniors have to refile by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Janet said many seniors do not know about tax benefits available to them and that it needs to be an ongoing education process.

**Transportation-** FISH is looking for drivers and riders per Kathy Hull. A brochure will be coming out, probably by next week. They will be available in the Senior Center and it might be in the Town Tribune as well. Sweetheart Bus is still running as well.

### **Senior Center Report**

**Budget Meeting-** Kathy Hull said she submitted her budget proposal, nothing changed too much so she does not expect any cuts.

Kathy introduced Ava Cerbone, a WCSU social worker major student. Today was Ava's first day at the Senior Center and she had her orientation today. Kathy said she would like to have Ava follow what goes on with the Housing Commission. She will also have her reaching out to seniors and help seniors focus on what their needs are. Ava said today a few people came into the Senior Center. She also fielded some phone calls. Kathy said a senior (along with their son) needed help with Medicare and Ava had her first experience explaining Medicare.

Kathy said they were unable to offer AARP Tax Aid this year because they didn't have enough volunteers. She normally hopes to have volunteers by November because the training is in December. Volunteers are trained by AARP & the IRS. The Senior Center has received 40-50 phone calls from seniors needing help with their taxes. She is hoping to be able to offer this again next year. The Senior Center has information on their website regarding tax aid.

Cindy La Cour asked Maureen Salerno when the Caregiver Support Group meets as she has people interested. Maureen said it meets the first Saturday of every month at 10am. Cindy will forward the info of the interest parties to Maureen.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjourn**

Cathy McCarthy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julia MacMillan, all in favor.

**Adjourned @ 8:20pm**