

Commission on the Aging

4 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, Ct. 06812

Meeting Minutes

New Fairfield Senior Center

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 – 7:30pm

Members In Attendance: Anita Brown, Kathy Hull, Janet Loya, Cindy LaCour, Cathy McCarthy, Roberta Illardo and Maureen Salerno. Maureen Salerno took the minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to approve Minutes: Approve the February 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes-Cindy LaCour made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written, 2nd by Kathy Hull.

Correspondence/Announcements: None

Old Business: Goals and objectives for the fiscal year 2021-2022: Anita Brown reminded us that we had decided to “increase our visibility in the community”. No discussion followed.

New Business: Outstanding Senior of the Year Nomination for May: Maureen Salerno called an executive session so that the nominations could be discussed in private to protect the surprise element for the nominee selected. Executive session ended after three nominees were presented. There is still time to nominate a candidate at the April meeting.

Advertising the Commission on Aging: Maureen’s suggestion of “advertising” the commission to various groups in town was not well received. Members felt that participating in New Fairfield Day or by bringing some program to a group would be more favorable.

Topic for September Community Forum: Kathy Hull checked the senior center calendar which indicated that October had more flexibility of dates. Saturday, October 22, 2022 was selected. Anita Brown suggested that the topic for the Forum should be mental health. Several issues/themes were discussed: COVID and isolation, re-engaging in the Community, Coming out of the fog. Perhaps a panel of mental health experts to discuss the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of re-entering after such a long period of isolation. All members were in agreement with this topic.

Sub-Committee Reports

Housing: Anita Brown reported that the Ad Hoc Housing Opportunities Committee has been appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The members are diverse and represent all walks of life. In addition to the appointed members, there will be ex-officio members-BOS, Planning, Zoning. The Committee is being assisted/educated by Westcog. Members expressed their appreciation to Anita Brown and Kathy Hull

for taking on this extra responsibility. The members were also pleased to hear that the Ad Hoc Committee was underway.

Senior Center Listening Session: Roberta Ilardo reported that a listening session did take place on 3/17/2022 but that she had no contact with anyone. All agreed that we should continue the sessions. Kathy Hull plans on including the session date in the Town Tribune calendar.

Taxes: Janet Loya reported that the Tax Relief Program ends on May 15, 2022. The application for the program is good for two years. There is also a separate benefit for veterans. It seems that not many seniors apply for this program even though the results of our Elder Needs Assessment showed a large number of seniors who responded are qualified for the program. Janet also reported that there was an increase of three percent in the grand list which will help our tax situation.

Transportation: Kathy Hull reported that a representative from the HART bus company will present at the senior center on April 6, 2022. Information on our ridership will be presented. Kathy also reported that FISH is being utilized.

Senior Center Report: Kathy Hull happily reported that the senior center is "fully opened and fully used". April 14, 2022 is the Mother/Daughter Tea. This is a very popular event which is well attended. Kathy also informed us that the Town now has a Newsletter which is published monthly on the Town Web Site.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Janet Loya, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

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Holly Z. Smith, Town Clerk, New Fairfield, CT