

**COMMISSION ON THE AGING
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812**

MINUTES

Meeting

May 9, 2017

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday May 9, 2017 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Secretary, Laurie Busse, took the minutes.

Present: Maureen Salerno, Chair, Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, Roberta Ilardo, Janet Loya, and Katy Johannssen

Absent: Kathy Hull, Julia MacMillan, and Jeannette Sweeney

MINUTES:

Cindy LaCour made a motion to accept the Minutes to the March 28, 2017 Meeting as presented, 2nd by Janet Loya. Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Thank you letter from Gail and Ernie Lehman
- Laurie Busse's resignation

OLD BUSINESS

1. Response to Planning Commission:

Maureen Salerno composed a letter to the Planning Commission outlining several needs/wants that are ongoing or still unmet. This includes affordable elderly housing, the need for a Housing Commission, and the need for a full-time Program Coordinator at the Senior Center. The Commission discussed the need to keep senior matters in the forefront. The consensus of the Commission is to request the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to establish a Housing Commission. Maureen Salerno will ask the BOS to establish a Housing Commission to explore elderly housing options.

2. Celebration of Outstanding Seniors of the Year:

Gail and Ernie Lehman were this year's recipients of Outstanding Senior of the Year Award. The celebration luncheon was held on May 4, 2017 at the Senior Center. First Selectman Susan Chapman had a very nice proclamation written up noting even more of this amazing couple's achievements. The luncheon guests included the Lehman's daughter and granddaughter. The COA was disappointed the Town Tribune did not send a reporter as they have done in years past.

3. Feedback Community Forum “The Emotional Cost of Caregiving”:

It seemed that all of the audience members were there because they needed to be there. The evaluation forms were very positive but indicated a need for a Caregivers Support Group. Discussion followed on possible days and times. Maureen Salerno would be happy to facilitate this group.

4. Senior Needs Assessments—COA to ride the Sweet Hart Bus

Discussion followed on the COA riding the Sweet Hart Bus. The matter was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Follow Up Community Forum in the Fall

The response to “The Emotional Cost of Caregiving” was very positive and the evaluations indicated that a follow up Community Forum on this topic would be very useful. The audience seemed to be interested in the 6-week program “Powerful Tools for Caregivers” and the information available from the Alzheimer’s Association of Connecticut. Discussion followed on the follow up topic and guest speakers. The audience was quite interactive with Dr. Jorge Aguilar-Zanatta. Maybe a geriatrician such as Dr. Susan Varano would be a good guest speaker. Other ideas included the topic would be on financial information or resources that are available such as RESPID or Meals on Wheels.

2. Senior Center Report:

Tabled

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURN:

Janet Loya made a motion to adjourn at 8:30, 2nd by Cindy LaCour Unanimous