

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

MINUTES

Meeting

December 5, 2017

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday December 5, 2017 at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Secretary, Jeanette Larca, took the minutes.

Present: Maureen Salerno, Chair, Cindy LaCour, Vice Chairman, Kathy Hull, Julia MacMillan, Anita Brown

Absent: Roberta Ilardo, Katy Johannssen, Janet Loya and Jeannette Sweeney

MINUTES:

Julia MacMillan made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 2, 2017 Meeting as presented, seconded by Cindy LaCour. Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Maureen Salerno welcomes the new secretary Jeanette Larca and new member Anita Brown.

OLD BUSINESS

1. HART Bus rides for the commissioners:

The commission discussed that the bus ride scheduled for Saturday, November 11, 2017 has been rescheduled for a Saturday after the New Year, date TBD. They would like to know the challenges a senior may face taking the bus. The HART bus is available for people over 65 as well as the disabled and accompanying companion.

2. Caregiver Support Group:

Maureen Salerno talked about how the attendees thought Cindy LaCour's presentation at the support group was wonderful. The first meeting had six people and the most recent increased to eight, everyone thought this was great news.

The group will meet the first Saturday of the month 10:00am -11:30am in the back of the senior center. Kathy Hull created a great flier promoting the support group applicable details.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Forum-Advance Planning, March 24, 2018:

Julia MacMillan is going to speak at the next forum on March 24, 2018 about advance planning. Members decided against having this video tapped since this may hold people back from speaking. Julia wants everyone to be fully aware of any illness they may have and make sure the severity and details are not being withheld from them. She wants people to know that they can ask sensitive questions like, “how much time do I have left?” It’s important for everyone to have plan, know what options are available (i.e. living will, avoidance of nursing home, etc.) and be able to comfortably communicate their wishes to family and friends as desired.

Julia is going to speak about the *Conversation Project*. During the forum everyone will be split into groups and be given a stack of cards called “go wish”. This is a great way of starting a discussions about options they may not have thought of. She will also have a power point presentation about 1-2 hours long and plenty of time for questions. A flier needs to be created, TBD.

2. On-going needs assessment of senior population:

Maureen Salerno and Anita Brown are going to be at the Senior Center on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 10:00 am for about an hour to speak with seniors. They want to make sure the Commission on the Aging has a presence in the Senior Center. This date has been added to the Senior Centers’ calendar. They are going to sit in the back of the room and let everyone know that the Commission on the Aging is in the back of the room if anyone would like to come fill out a survey. Secretary Jeanette Larca will recreate the Survey and email it to Kathy Hull for copies.

3. Senior Center Report:

Reported by Kathy Hull.

There has been a change to the Medicare Savings Program (“MSP”) effective January 1, 2018. Some families receiving this letter are not understanding the impacts it will have on them. The state is trying to limit the usage of this program by changing (lowering) the income level thresholds in order to qualify. We are going to write a letter to the state legislators on behalf of the Commission on the Aging.

4. 2018 Budget & Meeting Dates:

Maureen Salerno needs to submit the 2018 budget. The budget consists of just salaries and paper. We may need to purchase a new recorder if the old one can’t be located. The list of meeting dates was distributed to all members.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURN:

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn at 8:30, seconded by Julia MacMillan Unanimous