

Commission on the Aging
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT

Regular meeting
MINUTES

July 24, 2018

New Fairfield Senior Center

Members present: Chairman Maureen Salerno, Vice Chairman Cindy LaCour, Anita Brown, Kathy Hull, Roberta Ilardo, Janet Loya and Julia MacMillan

Members absent: Katy Johannsen,

Guests: Christina Ciminello and Natasha Ciminello from Caring Households

Call to Order: Chairman Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:32pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Acceptance of Minutes: The approval of the minutes from the June 26, 2018 were tabled until a future meeting-**All in favor**

Correspondence and Announcements- Chairman Maureen Salerno thanked Vice Chairman Cindy LaCour for chairing the June 26th meeting in her absence.

Needs Assessment-Board of Selectmen Report

Janet Loya noted that 48 surveys regarding needs of the aging were returned, ten of which were submitted online. The most common needs of these assessments were affordable housing, transportation and high taxes. Answers to the survey that received positive results included good neighbors and the New Fairfield Senior Center. There was a discussion among the members regarding these responses. There was a suggestion of speaking to the Board of Selectmen about possible tax programs similar to the one in Ridgefield. There was a suggestion of having the next survey being more in depth. It was decided to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking that the Commission on the Aging be put on the agenda for an upcoming meeting to discuss needs of seniors. All members of the Commission on the Aging were encouraged to attend.

There was a discussion of the possibility of a yellow blinking light in front of the Senior Center for pedestrian traffic. It was noted that the Board of Selectman addressed this at a recent meeting.

New Fairfield Day

New Fairfield Day will be held on Saturday, September 15th with a rain date of Sunday, September 16th. The commission decided to have the surveys available at the table on New Fairfield Day. Members of the Commission on the Aging were encouraged to attend.

Community Forum on Caregiver resources

There was a discussion of the Community Forum on Caregiver resources and who should be the speaker. It was decided to have a panel with a keynote speaker. The date for this forum will be either September 29th or October 13th based on the availability of the speakers. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Housing Subcommittee

Maureen Salerno spoke of the possibility of the Commission on the Aging revisiting the possibility of Affordable Housing in New Fairfield. Anita Brown spoke of the research that she has done regarding this topic. She referred to the Plan of Conservation and Development done by the New Fairfield Planning Commission in 2013 and noted that it indicates that there will definitely be a need for affordable and senior housing in the future. There was a discussion of how to get support from the community regarding this. There was a suggestion of asking the BOS to possibly appoint a committee.

Senior Center Report

Kathy Hull presented the commission with a statistics report and a calendar from the month of June. The statistics report showed total attendance, average daily attendance, days open, number of meals served, number of new members and number of volunteer hours.

The hours for the Program Coordinator at the Senior Center have increased to 35 ½ hours per week making it a full-time position.

Kathy Hull noted that nurses will be attending the Senior Center to give standardized health exams. Training for this will be in August and the program will start in September.

Public Comment

Christina Ciminello and Natasha Ciminello from Caring Households spoke of a service in Connecticut that pays caregivers. They spoke of many services available to Senior Citizens.

Adjournment

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. Julie MacMillian seconded the motion- **All in favor**