

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

**Meeting Minutes-Amended
Tuesday March 28, 2023
New Fairfield Senior Center
7:30pm**

Members in Attendance

Anita Brown, Kathy Hull, Roberta Ilardo, Cindy LaCour, Julia MacMillan and Maureen Salerno. Lisa Zustovich took the meeting minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to approve Minutes

Approve the January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes- Cindy LaCour made a motion to approve the 1-24-23 meeting minutes as written, 2nd by Julia MacMillan, all in favor. **Approved**

Correspondence/Announcements

None

Old Business

Summit Meeting May 2023- The Summit will be hosted by the Newtown COA from 10-12pm. Roberta will call and ask where it will be held, she will also ask them to invite the Bethel COA. Anna Rothstein is the Newtown COA Chairperson. Maureen said she would contact Brookfield COA Chairperson. Kathy Hull will contact the Danbury COA Chairperson.

Breakfast with the Clergy, March 11, 2023- This was cancelled, looking to reschedule in the summer-June/July.

New Business

Topics for the next Community Forum- The Commission agreed to have Housing as the topic for the next Community Forum.

Suggestions for Outstanding Senior of the Year- The Commission discussed candidates for this year's Outstanding Senior of the Year.

Sub-Committee Reports

Housing- There is a Housing Survey that has gone out, responses will be anonymous. So far to those who received the survey they have approx. 35 responses. It's available on the Town's website as well as the Housing page of the website. It's also on the Library's email blast, the Senior Center's website, St. Edwards bulletin & The Congregational Church's Facebook page and bulletin. They also plan to put flyers up. Anita contacted the Superintendent of schools to have it sent out to the staff. It is also going out to the Lions Club and Volunteer Fire Dept. There will also be an article about it in the Town Tribune and News Times.

The Housing Opportunity Committee will be on the Zoning's Agenda for the April meeting and on a future Planning Commission's agenda. Anita said they are planning a community forum, one virtual, one in-person. Discussing May 6th for the in-person meeting and May 4th for virtual. Residents are concerned about what the location Affordable Housing would go. Maureen shared information on an AARP webinar on Creating Livable Communities on March 31st @ 9am.

Senior Center Listening Session

Roberta had one on 2/9, seniors asked about a break for taxes and she told them about Cindy White and where to go. Some asked about swimming at the school's pool. The seniors praised the Senior Center staff. She had another listening session on 3/9 where she walked up to a group to talk to them, she didn't get any questions or concerns. At the April session she can inform seniors about the Housing Survey. Kathy said they can put up a sign for the April listening session asking if they filled out the Housing Survey and include the QR code.

Taxes

No discussion

Transportation

Per Kathy Hull starting April 1st the HART bus will cost \$1.00 to ride.

Senior Center Report

Kathy Hull discussed budget concerns and was contacted by the First Selectman's office regarding information on the Program Coordinator position. Kathy is concerned about the position being cut. Kathy also discussed the number of visits to the Senior Center per year, 2018-today, and how the visits are increasing again since the pandemic. In 2018 they had 23,024 visits, 2019 24,983 visits. But then because of the pandemic, in 2020 they only had 6,022 and 2021 there were 9,292. In 2022 visits increased to 15,803 and so far in 2023 they have had 4,201 visits. Anita commented that the services provided at the Senior Center are important to the mental health of the seniors. Kathy mentioned they have a Cornhole team that plays every Monday and Thursday afternoon. They have been playing the New Milford Cornhole team as well.

Public Comment

No public comment but Maureen informed the Commission that Eric Huff may be interested in joining the Commission and that he could come on as an alternate.

Adjourn

Julia MacMillan made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Anita Brown, all in favor. Adjourned @ 8:40pm.

Received by email on 05/01/2023 @ 8:31 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield