

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

Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019  
7:30 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

A meeting of the Commission on the Aging was held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at the New Fairfield Senior Center. Chair Maureen Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Member Anita Brown took the minutes.

Members in Attendance: Anita Brown, Kathy Hull, Roberta Ilardo, Maureen Salerno.  
Absent: Cindy LaCour, Janet Loya, Julia MacMillan.

Minutes: Roberta made a motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2019, seconded by Maureen. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence/Announcements: None

Old Business:

**Community Forum and Senior Survey:**

Very clear presentation per Kathy. Comments had to be limited to represent diverse perspectives, per Maureen, however they will be reviewed in their entirety at the next meeting for followup.

The survey indicated that there is a need for making information available on a regular basis; for example, making people aware of the way to access the HART bus as well as tax relief. Kathy suggested making that information available at the quarterly senior center meetings.

The addressed envelopes that were returned will be made available to the Registrar for updating, should they wish to take them off their list.

Other observations about the survey:

-there appeared to be a contradiction between reported income and the ability to manage financially.

-some people may be looking for tax relief and be eligible, though not accessing.

Maureen indicated that many people shared that they did not wish to list their income; they felt it was a private matter.

-a positive for elderly housing; the presentation will include both perspectives in the comments.

There were a few flaws with the survey in that it did not capture all seniors; addresses were accessed from the Registrar of Voters. In addition, married individuals indicated they were living with family which could confuse the results; consider correcting this in a future survey.

The Community Forum, "Senior Planning for Today and Tomorrow, 2019 Senior Survey Results", on November 16, will be a work session from 10am to 12noon.

The results will be introduced and shared by Maureen followed by brainstorming at three separate tables facilitated by commissioners: Housing: Anita/Julie, Tax Relief: Janet/Cindy, Transportation and Other: Kathy/Roberta.

A suggestion was made by Roberta to provide a future flyer about home maintenance/yard work assistance.

Facilitators will develop three questions to initiate input from participants; at the conclusion, each facilitator will share a summary of the discussion and next steps.

A goal will be to involve as many voices in this effort as possible.

Maureen will send out a group email with potential questions for the facilitators to guide the table's dialogue; consider commissioner's coming in early (by 9am) on November 16 since there will not be a meeting prior to the forum.

Kathy will create a flyer in anticipation of Community Forum and Roberta will get the flyer to the library, the New Life church and the Lutheran church.

A tentative framework was developed for the November forum:

10:00-10:20 Maureen shares results

10:25-10:45 First dialogue

10:50-11:10 Second dialogue

11:15-11:25 Break

11:30-11:50 Summary/Next Steps

11:50-12:00 Final Wrap up

On Thursday, October 24, Maureen will present the survey results to the Board of Selectmen. CoA members are invited to attend.

New Business: None

Subcommittee Reports: None

Senior Center Report: Average daily attendance for September was 112; Details will be postponed to November meeting.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment at 8:35pm: Anita moved, Roberta seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Anita Brown

Received for Record

OCT 24 2019

et 4. 30. 11 P. M. and recorded by  
*Pamela J. Dohan*  
Pamela J. Dohan, Town Clerk, New Fairfield, CT