

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

**Meeting Minutes
Tuesday May 26, 2020
Zoom Meeting 7:30pm**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95653027566>
Meeting ID: 956 5302 7566

Zoom meeting moderated by Paul Gouveia.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members in Attendance

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

Motion to approve Minutes

Maureen will have the minutes ready for next month's meeting. **Continued**

Correspondence/Announcements

None

Old Business

March, 2020 Community Forum on Elderly Tax Relief- The Commission members agreed that it is too late to try to do something now. It was discussed possibly trying to do this in the Fall.

May activities for Older Americans Month- Discussed choosing candidates for Outstanding Senior of the Year. Maureen asked all members to think of candidates. They could be recognized in some way and have an article in the paper but no party due to social distancing limitations on social gatherings.

Membership-Maureen asked Commission members if they knew of anyone that would be interested in joining the Commission on the Aging. Open positions (member and alternatives) discussed. Maureen said she had someone she felt would be a great addition to the Commission but that person is not ready to join at this time.

New Business

Review of the Pandemic -role for the Commission- No discussion

Sub-Committee Reports

Housing-Anita Brown shared results of a senior housing survey done in Sherman June/July 2019; results discussed. Maureen noted that Sherman's survey was open to 55 years and older; in New Fairfield the Commission has been focusing on age 62 and older. It was also noted that Sherman's survey doesn't say "affordable" housing and that it says residential vs senior housing. Per Anita the residents in Sherman seem to be in 2 categories, those wanting affordable housing vs those wanting luxury accommodations. There are potential properties (in New Fairfield) available but nothing has been

chosen. Also discussed that this may be done by private developers. Commission members compared and discussed senior housing in other towns. Anita has spoken with Selectman Khris Hall who wants to know what residents are looking for in senior housing. The Commission discussed the following for New Fairfield senior housing:

- Affordable housing with some rental units
- 1-2 bedroom apartments
- Single level units
- Handicap accessible
- Laundry in units
- Accessibility to Town
- Units that have a small porch/deck

Senior Center Listening Session- Senior Center has been closed due to the pandemic

Taxes-Janet Loya stated that the governor suspended the deadline for applying for tax relief and that there is no penalty. If needed residents may reapply for medical reasons; if you are currently in the program you will automatically be carried over.

Transportation- No discussion

Senior Center Report- Kathy Hull stated they have been doing a lot of online events like Facebook live. They are also recording classes and uploading them to google such as Zumba and cooking. They have also been doing a lot of Zoom meetings like yoga and meditation. Kathy said they request donations for the classes and have been getting some though not getting as much as they would when people would pay to do a class. Kathy discussed the grab and go meal program they have been doing- Mondays at 11:30am they hand out food for Monday and Tuesday then on Weds they hand out food for Weds and Thursday. NFHS students started Seniors Helping Seniors and they collect and provide shelf stable foods to cover Friday meals for seniors. They collect the donations at the high school which is then handed out at the Senior Center on Weds. Cindy told Kathy that if there are any homebound seniors that want help to facetime with their loved one that she would be happy to help them with that.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Janet Loya, all in favor. **Adjourned @ 8:40pm**