

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

**Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 27, 2020
Zoom Meeting 7:30pm**

Join zoom meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/95068621320>
Meeting ID: 950 6862 1320

Meeting Moderator: Paul Gouveia

Members in Attendance

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to approve Minutes

Janet Loya made a motion to approve the 9-22-20 minutes with the correction has discussed, 2nd by Cindy LaCour, all in favor. **Approved**

Correspondence/Announcements

None

Special Guest

Peter De Maria - Department of Veteran Affairs- Peter De Maria, Service Officer with the Dept. of Veteran Affairs present and spoke about services available to veterans and their spouses. He spoke about non-service related pensions for war time veterans and their spouses. This can assist with nursing home, assisted living and home health aide expenses. VA Contract is for those with service connected disabilities. This can pay nursing home expenses. Cindy LaCour discussed vets with neurological issues such as dementia and Parkinsons and how it's hard to get these to qualify. Discussed presumptive claims and what conditions could get claims approved. Peter gave his phone number, (203) 805-6340, at Veteran's Affairs and told the Commission that they can call or pass on his number to families that have questions. Peter said that if a person does not qualify for pension they can still get services through the VA Hospital if enrolled through the VA. Kathy Hull asked if Peter would be willing to come and do a 1:1 program at the Senior Center for anyone who had questions. Peter said he would but that he can't right now due to covid restrictions. A program for finding homes for homeless veterans discussed. The Commission thanked Peter for coming to the meeting.

Old Business

Outstanding Senior of the Year-Jim Mellett- The Mellett's prefer the option of celebrating via Zoom. This will happen at the next COA meeting on December first. A proclamation will be delivered to the Mellett's along with a cake and flowers the night of the event. The Commission also discussed providing the Zoom meeting information to the Mellett's so they can share with their family and friends so they can also attend.

New Business

Study project for the Commissioners- No discussion

Sub-Committee Reports

Housing-Anita Brown spoke about the COA being on the Planning Commission's agenda to discuss senior housing. Kathy Hull, Anita Brown and Maureen Salerno all spoke at the meeting and felt that 5 commission members were in favor of affordable senior housing. The Planning Commission wants the COA to present potential properties that may be viable for senior housing. Keith Landa from the Planning Commission mentioned that private developers may have an interest. The property behind MHHS discussed as a good location. Maureen said that Planning cannot do anything for senior housing until there is a location for them to investigate. Cindy agreed saying that she feels Planning is in support of senior housing but cannot move forward until they know what piece of land is being proposed. While at the Planning Commission meeting they shared the results of the Senior Needs Assessment and the interest seniors have in affordable housing in New Fairfield. Discussed finding a developer vs a non-profit. Kathy said she sent a letter to the Planning Commission thanking them and praising them for recognizing the importance of our seniors. Kathy said she will share the letter with the COA Commission.

Senior Center Listening Session- Janet Loya and Kathy Hull discussed starting to do listening sessions via Zoom.

Taxes-No discussion

Transportation-No discussion.

Senior Center Report

Kathy Hull said they started to make plans for a soft opening about 2 weeks ago. Seniors would have to pre-register for programs and only a limited number of people could attend. The Senior Center would only be open four instead of five days. This wouldn't happen before January 2021. They have been doing flu clinics but it has been hard to get the high dose vaccines. They are still doing virtual programs. Kathy said they would be having a drive thru trick or treat event with a photo op and vendors. She has had a good response to this event. They are also planning a Drive-by for Pie event for Thanksgiving. Kathy discussed a Statewide virtual program on Dec. 18th from 1-2:30pm. She said prior to the event the Senior Center has planned a Winter Wonderland event at the Senior Center from 10:30am-12:00pm. It will be a walk-thru event with giveaways.

Public Comment-None

Adjourn

Cindy LaCour made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Anita Brown, all in favor. **Adjourned**