

TOWN OF HADDAM COMMITTEE ON AGING Minutes

Monday December 11, 2017 10:00 am Town Annex Bldg. Jail Hill Haddam

Attachments: Agenda 12/11/2017

Members Present: Thurston Clark, Jackie Cryslar, Marge DeBold, Beth Hartke, Mary Lou Heger, Gloria Maynard, Mary Lou Pierce, Susan Rutty, Adele Vynalek, Robert Waller, Lizz Milardo First Selectman, Charlie Masunas for HKYFS

Call to Order: By **Mary Lou Heger** followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the November meeting were read, and a motion was made to accept as amended and agreed by all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lizz Milardo provided an overview of the work by various town departments for seniors: She advises attendance by her staff on Mondays is a problem, given extensive requirements just after the weekend. She will get their reports directly which should be presented to her board before the COA. We will be able to find these reports on the town web site. This should be adequate for our purposes. Today Lizz advised us about some projects underway for seniors and others in town, including:

Emergency Kits being developed by Jessica for the High Meadows residents. Social Services Dept. is expanding the range of foods available in the Food Pantry.

She is meeting with the Chief's of the town's Fire, Ambulance, and Emergency Management to work on identifying at risk individuals such as "shut ins" and has a liaison with Eversource Power to help in this regard as well. The last major storm response from Eversource was inadequate however and they are coordinating with all stakeholders now to improve this response. She advised that the emergency shelter for town is the High School and Fire House which can be used if needed as warming and cooling shelters, and recharging phones if needed.

Members of the COA (Susan R, Thurston, Mary Lou H and Bob W) met with First Selectman (with Eleanor, Shannon and Jessica) on 11/27 and cleared up some concerns raised at the last meeting. All our questions were answered, and the town staff

previewed the new emergency kits being put together by Jessica for High Meadows distribution.

The public and COA are invited to the Town Hall Open House on Thursday 12/15 from 5-6:30pm. Also, long time receptionist Betty Dubik will be retiring.

The Selectman will be changing their meeting date to be the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month.

Thurston raised a concern about accessing our minutes and other information, such as the department reports from the town WEB Site. Although our COA minutes are submitted to the Town Clerk, it was noted that those were not found on the town site. In the future we will submit the approved COA minutes to the FS assistant as well to be placed on the site as well. It was recommended that the tracking cookies be cleared to avoid being sent to the old site. Joanne Ricciardelli, the FS Secretary has the best knowledge on reaching the various levels of the site and she can be reached at selectasst@haddam.org or by phone at 8603458531 x 204.

The Selectman have reappointed each of the COA members who wished to be appointed to full 2-year terms at the last meeting.

Club 60: Mary Lou Pierce provided information about their club's activity this past month. The group had their Christmas party last week, with 80 attendees. Their presentation about the Valley Railroad was cancelled and replaced by a representative of the Ambulance Corp in town. They had a very interesting presentation, including the File of Life medical folder, and good description of what happens when you call 911. Next week they will have the regular Business Meeting, plus a Jazz band to entertain. On January 18th they will be making a presentation on scholarships.

Emergency Preparedness: Set as a goal by COA in 2018, was presented by Thurston Clark: In addition to the extensive information provided by First Selectman, the COA wanted to gather more information regarding how the town's emergency system works with respect to people identified as at risk, how the various responders work cooperatively, so we can help where needed either by reaching out to groups (lions, scouts, garden club, church etc.), soliciting funds for particular items (flash lights, blankets). A point of concern was changes in phone contact relative to land line use, now with growing preference for mobile devices, not in data base for first responders when needed. We discussed the need for improved communication in general. We would like to investigate these items and assist as we move into cold weather and

power outage season. Mary Lou Pierce will bring our project, and materials we get whether it be Lion's House Sign program or Emergency preparedness guides, to her members in Club 60 members in coming months. The COA will look to more broadly share this info in town. A MOTION MADE to request 200 copies of the CT Guide to Emergency Preparedness, and passed unanimously. Bob W will make a formal request to CT Dept. of Public Health, and we'll work with town selectman and other interested parties on distribution when they arrive. The group inquired about the role of Emergency Management. Beth will contact Alan Alonzo to see if he could make a presentation to COA or Seniors about their department. Thurston will prepare a letter for our town publications bring up the issue of Emergency Preparedness to raise the issue in public awareness. COA established a SUB COMMITTEE to investigate this, and meet with the First Selectman and others to pull this information together for action. MEMBERS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE: Beth H, Susan R, Marge D and Mary Lou Pierce.

Reference:

http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/communications/preparedness/emer_prep_guide_final.pdf

Regrettably the loss of \$200,000 in ECS funding has had an impact on expansion, but we should be able to maintain current services with current budget this year.

New Business:

HK YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES: Charles Masunus, their interim Director since November 7th. He introduced himself to those on the COA who didn't know him from his days in our school system. He was appointed as their interim Director following the resignation of Deborah Kelly. He is a former Social Studies teacher and High School Principal. He updated the COA on their search process and indicated a willingness to continue the very productive work with COA over the past few years. He indicated support for the Senior's Expo and will be attending our meetings as time allows. His email charles@hkyfs.org. In addition to counseling and advocacy, in the fall HKYFS continued the Backpack program serving 27 elementary and HS students. They are providing lots of toys and helping with holiday giving, especially for single parent families. They are working with Knights of Columbus to get coats for distribution to needy families. It was suggested that they contact Jessica at town Social Services to see what they have for this purpose. They support Juvenal Court, whereby youngsters with minor infractions are evaluated and perform a service instead of full court process to help steer them from more serious crimes.

Community member expressed interest in COA membership: Fran, a resident at High Meadows expressed interest in joining the group. Gloria mentioned that Mike Farina may be interested in joining as well. This type of appointment is made through the Town Selectman. The prospective candidates will be guided accordingly. They will be encouraged to attend our meetings as an observer to help her get a feel for our work.

Review of Committee on Aging Bylaws: It was recommended that members re read the bylaws to determine if adjustments need to be made for next year.

Motion to adjourn: Without any new business forthcoming, a motion to adjourn was made by Marge, and seconded by Beth. Members voted to adjourn at 11:35am.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2018 AT THE ANNEX ON JAIL HILL RD

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert D Waller

Secretary COA

On a motion by Susan R and seconded by Beth H, the minutes were approved 1/8/2018

Sent to Town Clerk for filing, and First Selectman's assistant for inclusion on the town site 1/9/2018 RDW