

**Haddam Committee on Aging Minutes**  
**December 18, 2023**  
**Old Town Hall**

**Chairman** Mary Lou Heger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 10 am and introductions of members and guests.

**Attendance :** Thurston Clark, Mary Lou Heger, Marge DeBold, Robert Waller, Doreen Staskelunas, Wayne Ruttty, Beth Hartke, Kaye Burgess, Becky Rice, Kim Gionfriddo, Ron Pellerin, Mark Lundgren

**Guests:** Neal Perron, Fred Hartke

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with Pledge of Allegiance

**Minutes From** our last meeting were approved with additions by the Committee.

**Election of officers** on agenda moved up (motion Mark Lundgren 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurston). Bylaws were discussed and vote to retain acting officers was taken for Treasurer JoAnn Woickelman, Secretary Kaye Burgess (1<sup>st</sup> motion Marge DeBold 2<sup>nd</sup> Beth Hartke). Verbal vote taken and accepted to seat Kim Gionfriddo as Vice Chairman. Secret Ballot accepted for Chairman seating Mark Lundgren 7 to 4 MaryLou Heger. Officers to serve one year 1/1/2024-12/31/2024.

**Senior Center** Doreen during the past month the center was open 12 days. Served 84 Estuary meals and had 247 visitors. Senior Center served 84 Estuary meals and had 247 visitors. 20 seniors attended pizza and a movie. 7 seniors attended holiday craft. 42 seniors attended the Thanksgiving dinner . 4 days of 20+ attendees. Cards draw on the average 6 to 8 people. Doreen will be available to visit other senior centers beginning the end of January with Bob Waller to determine possibilities to help make HES Senior Center location a success with interests for our community. She met with the architect for space planning.

**Senior Van** We are down one van. Was not running the month of November. Neal Perron our new driver from Haddam Neck spoke about his 20+ years driving experience and that our part time position is his priority to his other driving commitments as well as his flexibility to meet our senior's needs. His current hours are M-Th 9am to 2 pm.

We discussed the fact that the van is available to disabled of any age and can accommodate up to 2 wheelchairs.

Thurston mentioned in the past in Bob McGarry's absence we would look to Becky for any updates from his office she may be aware of to share with the committee. Beth mentioned the Town Hall generator was running today, Thurston mentioned we have several electrical outages in the community, Kaye said many trees were down.

**Social Services** Services to 67 adults and 14 children; 1 family received gift certificate/groceries; 5 fuel; 3 oil; 1 electric; 1 propane; 4 paperwork assistance. 129 clothing assistance. 30 Thanksgiving baskets for the community. 0 wellness checks.

**CRAHD (Health District)** No update

**High Meadows** No update

**Youth and Family Services** No update

Mary Lou Heger established a telephone tree if meetings have to be interrupted due to snow and was still being worked on.

**Goals/Projects for 2023/24** Mark mentioned for COA discussion and possible 2024 Projects: 1) Review COA. Bylaws; 2) Handyman Service possibility 3) Ordinance tax relief for the elderly review.

**Adjournment** Motion made 11:37 and accepted by attendees.

Kaye Burgess, Secretary

**Next meeting Monday January 22, 2024  
at Old Town Hall**