

TOWN OF HADDAM COMMITTEE ON AGING Minutes

Monday December 16, 2019 10:00 am Annex building

Attachments: Agenda, December 2019 Reports, November 2019 Social Services, Senior Van and Senior Center Report.

Members Present: R. Thurston Clark, Marge DeBold, Beth Hartke, Mary Lou Heger, Frannie Kosalski, Gloria Maynard, Mary Lou Pierce, Susan Rutty, Robert Waller, Jessica Condil from Social Service, Coleen Totman- Senior Center, Joann Woickelman- High Meadows Senior Housing.

Call to Order: By **R. Thurston Clark** followed by Pledge of Allegiance at 10 am

Minutes of the November 2019 meeting were reviewed, and a motion made by Susan and seconded by Beth was made to accept. A vote by the members all agreed.

HADDAM MEADOWS SENIOR HOUSING: Joanne advised he group that the complex is now full and 7 males and 16 females residing. They have some new residents who could use the Emergency Kits. Jessica will provide them. She advised about the very successful music concert last month of which 16 residents attended. Remaining repairs on the sidewalks will need to wait till Spring.

CLUB 60: Mary Lou advised that they have 80 people signed up to attend the Holiday Party next month. She is seeing more participation by the High Meadows' residents of late. The Social Services Fuel Bank will be the beneficiary of the 50/50 raffle at the party.

SOCIAL SERVICES: Jessica advised that her office provided Food Bank services to 42 residents. They provided 61 Thanksgiving baskets last month. She reported that due to a reduction in her mileage charges she may be able to help with the expected overage anticipated for the Seniors Picnic next June. She wanted to highlight the role various service organizations in town play contributing to fuel bank, Christmas baskets and gift giving. They will be supporting 50 families with needed Christmas baskets. She also wanted to advise that her office provides some support to the Backpack Program where school children are given packs with food for themselves and their family to bring home on a regular basis.

SENIOR VAN: Provided 24 Medical Rides last month and averaged 8 persons per weekly Shopping Trip.

SENIOR CENTER: Had a total of 384 visitors in November. 172 attended the CRT Lunch program at the center. The Thanksgiving dinner at the center served 42 seniors. We discussed some of the new offerings available to seniors now and well received.

The COA wanted some clarification about official “closing” due to weather. At one point it aligned with the School Schedule. Now it corresponds to the Official Town Hall Closing schedule. Most importantly, the public needs to have a good accessible message for when the Center is closed, and how this is publicized to reach the greatest number of effected residents. The new First Selectman will be queried about this because it has implications regarding bus transport, CRT meals, and reliability of attendance. The COA discussed the history of hours of operation for the Center. The last time a 5-day week was offered was during Shannon’s term. The times were reduced to 3 days in Summer. At present she is permitted 25 hours per week and attendance is up 50%.

Senior Center Survey: The subcommittee is preparing to send these out early January after the stationary supplies are received. We’ll discuss this at January meeting.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: We discussed our ongoing interest in meeting with the Town’s Emergency Management Team to discuss issues involving Seniors. We are waiting on Kevin McMannus to respond to our request. In terms of keeping our materials current available. We need some more information packs for the Senior Center. New Club 60 members should also be apprised of this information. These outline what is needed to maintain yourself for 72 hours in case of an emergency. Our plan is to meet as a subcommittee before next COA meeting with some more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

COA Membership: Following last week’s Board Meeting all the members serving in 2019 were reappointed to a two-year term.

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING: Made a presentation in Norwich, that Bob attended where they provided some guidelines for next year’s Aging Grants and sought out

input from stakeholders on the program and types of grants that are needed by seniors. Bob advised that this money will be directed to grant proposals that meet new needs, underserved seniors, and can be crafted across multiple agencies that want to provide a new service to the community.

ADJURNMENT: A motion to adjourn and was seconded with all in agreement at 10:55am.

1/27/2020 On a motion by Mary Pierce and Seconded by Mary Lou Hegler, the Committee on Aging approved the above minutes.

RDW