

## **TOWN OF HADDAM COMMITTEE ON AGING Minutes May 14, 2018**

**Monday May 14, 2018 10:00 am Haddam Neck Fairgrounds**

**Attachments:** Agenda May 2018

**Members Present:** R. Thurston Clark, Jackie Crysler, Marge DeBold, Sue DeCarli, Eleanor Farrell, Mary Lou Heger, Mary Lou Pierce, Susan Rutty, Robert Waller,

Public: Franny Kosalsky, Mr. Nilsen, Mrs. Olson

**Call to Order: 10: 05 By Mary Lou Heger** followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the April 2018 COA meeting were read, and a motion was made to accept as amended and agreed by all.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Municipal Agent report:** Eleanor advised that she assisted over 30 individuals last month, including 3 with the Renter's Rebate, and provided publicity for this program. All total she helped this term was 58, which ended in April. She noted that she was able to help one additional applicant who had special circumstances after the expiry date. The State Budget for this program is slated to be reduced by 50 thousand for next year. She spoke about a state computer error which disrupted the Food Stamp program in CT for a short time, and is now restored. She assisted a family with their Eversource bill and assisted another individual who had moved and experienced a Medicare payment disruption because of the move. She assisted a client attain low cost phone service because of their income. During the month she attended Benefits Checkup Training offered by the Senior Resources Agency. Greg from Higganum Pharmacy was cited as being very helpful with their free home medication delivery.

Eleanor also announced that she will be leaving the Municipal Agent's position to take a new job in the CT Legal Services Agency in New London. As an attorney, the new job is in keeping with her professional background. She said she was very sad to leave this community she enjoyed so much working for during the past 2 years, said she enjoyed serving the seniors, and the projects such as the High Meadows development. The Committee expressed gratitude for all her good work, willingness to share with the Committee, and positive outcomes through some difficult times. She will be missed. Her last day will be May 31.

The Committee will explore ways to receive reports from her successor, since this role is fundamental in knowing what challenges are out there for seniors, and how we as a community are assisting seniors in need.

**Haddam Social Services:** Information provided by Eleanor where she advised that Jessica Condil has been able to secure lots more fresh produce from her sources of late, to benefit the food bank consumers. Hours are now Tues 9-2pm, Thursday 1-6pm and Friday 9-12, and by appointment when needed. She has a new freezer which allows her to expand variety and quantity of food available to residents. We talked about a special cook book that features good recipes for families who need to use basic ingredients and maximized value and quality for those on limited incomes or rely heavily on food bank sources . It is called Good and Cheap eat well on \$ 4. Day, by Leanne Brown, and Eleanor believes Jessica has a copy of same. The recipes are available on line, and the author gives a copy away to the needy for each copy someone buys. Bob will bring in a copy for the COA to look at next month.

**Senior Center:** The renovations to the Center are now completed. This work was to make the bathrooms ADA compliant. Next project is to update the entrance ramp. Shannon will be hosting a special program about her experience as a contestant on the TV show Wheel of Fortune in 2015.

**Club 60:** Mary Lou Pierce advised that the April meeting was cancelled due to snow. They did have their Business Meeting. Upcoming is the presentation by Daisy Hernandez on 5/21 on Fall Prevention. On June 4<sup>th</sup> they will be holding their Annual Meeting with election of officers. Many members are expected to attend the Annual Seniors Picnic on 6/18. We talked about their budget and how the money is allocated throughout the year. Much going to trips for recreation with large portion for bus transportation. Last year the trips were well attended averaging about 54 persons per trip. They do a good job keeping their members informed of these opportunities at meetings, their newsletter, and through The Bulletin and Haddam News.

**Senior Picnic June 18, 2018 at Haddam Neck Fairgrounds:** We discussed the planning and response to reservations thus far. As of today, there were 19 signed up and 11 using the Haddam Bus. From Haddam Neck we have 5 attendees so far. Sign up end date is June 11. Marketing continues with ads in the media, notices at the town churches and flyers available at public locations. The COA agreed on a motion offered by Marge, to have a 50/50 raffle with funds going to the Fuel Bank. The Picnic sub-

committee still needs some helpers. Bob will contact Mike Farina and Ron Perlmen to see if they would be willing to help.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Group will be meeting on 5/29 to finalize their presentation to the First Selectman, based on some resources gathered for that purpose. Franny K cited the help given to High Meadows by Social Services (the resource bags), during the last outage, as being extremely helpful to the residents.

**High Meadows** Update by Eleanor and Franny K; they noted that the Generator has been ordered for the community room. They are waiting for the generator's slab to be poured. A meeting is scheduled for next week with their newly minted "official" board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Committee on Aging Meeting dates and time;** We discussed changing the meeting date from second Monday to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, to allow time for the department reports to be considered and distributed by the First Selectman. They come in just after our meeting at present. Susan will talk to FS to determine what works best for all parties and report to the COA next month.

**COA PRINTED MATERIALS REVIEW:** Thurston wanted the committee to consider updating the COA Brochure developed last year, to reflect some changes to the composition of the group. Agreed to make changes after election of new board for publication in the fall.

**VALLEY RAILROAD** Free rides for Haddam Residents coming up, as discussed by Thurston. The service is now extended as far north as Horton Rd.

**SENIORS RESOURCE: Senior Blue Book** A statewide directory of resources for seniors is now at the Library and Senior Center. It lists service providers around the state for specialties in medicine, behavioral health etc. The abundance of providers in our region, that is listed in this book is quite narrow, probably due to who subscribed, but the book may be of help if you can't easily find providers for a highly specialized clinician and need to get the service in other areas of the state.

**Thanks to the Haddam Neck Fair Committee** for letting us meet at their office/meeting room again, today. Thanks for the refreshments they provided.

**Gloria Maynard:** It was reported that our member Gloria is back home after recuperating from a long hospital stay. She is in good spirits, and the COA sends our best wishes for a speedy return.

A motion was made to adjourn by Susan at 11:35am, seconded by Jackie and agreed to by all.

**Next meeting will be June 11,2018 at the Town Hall Annex second floor at 10am**

Respectfully submitted

Robert D. Waller

Secretary

Minutes approved on motion by Susan Rutty, seconded by Marge Debold, and approved by Committee 6/11/2018

Sent to Town Clerk for filing, and to First Selectman for inclusion in town web site 6/11/2018 RDW