

## **TOWN OF HADDAM COMMITTEE ON AGING Minutes March 2018**

**Monday March 12, 2018 10:00 am Town Annex Bldg. Jail Hill Haddam**

**Attachments:** Agenda March 12, 2018

**Members Present:** R. Thurston Clark, Marge DeBold, Eleanor Farrell, Mary Lou Heger, Mary Lou Pierce, Susan Rutt, Robert Waller

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

Minutes of the February 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 furnished her detailed report to the Selectman for review. Bob will attempt to extract this information when published on the town site.

The committee discussed a problem that effected numerous people early in the year, involving the Medicare Savings Program for seniors. Last year's state budget severely curtailed eligibility, which had the effect of putting at risk a benefit for medical and prescription insurance coverage in January 2018. The reaction by over 81,000 people statewide, who were affected caused the program to be reinstated till July 2018. Concerns were raised about what will happen if not extended beyond this date. Prior to the January 2018 deadline, the Municipal Agent was deluged with pleas for help when this happened, and as a committee we expressed concern that this could happen again if the Legislature doesn't act to support the program beyond July 2018. We'll need to watch this for outcomes.

The committee expressed great support for the work of Eleanor on behalf of the senior community, noting the high amount of repeat contact with this growing population, and complexity of cases she needs to resolve.

The COA also discussed a longstanding need to provide some monetary support for emergency funds for the Municipal Agent. When she needs to act quickly on

behalf of a family in crisis, these limited resources can make all the difference to achieve a successful resolution. The COA annual picnic raffle proceeds have been used in the past to help, here, and we agreed to continue this in 2018.

**High Meadows** discussion regarding how they performed during the recent power outage. Their outages mirrored the problems generally in town. Residents there have a host of special needs involving electric and heat, which apparently were not adequately resolved by either Eversource or Wildwood Management. It was reported that the Board is now going to approve a generator for the Community Building soon. The Board is pursuing a grant for this and other work, and the town has signed a letter of support for this program.

**Club 60** Mary Lou Pierce advises that attendance continues to be very good. She advised about the Atlantic City trip from 2/28 to 3/2 that was very well received. They filled up ½ the bus with locals and the rate was \$204 per person.

**Senior Picnic Planning** Susan reports that the plans are all set. First Selectman will be taking care of the bus arrangements to transport from Higganum to Haddam Neck. Our target for attendance is a maximum of 100 to stay within the budget of \$1,200. It was agreed to have a 50/50 raffle and offer the proceeds to the MA emergency fund

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**SCHEDULING COA** We discussed the prospect of issues of concern involving senior and indicated on the various town reports. Thurston expressed concerns over the timing of our meeting, and submissions by those departments, and suggested we monitor this to determine whether it might be advantageous for us to meet later in the month next year, to allow time for us to consider any issues of concern. We will monitor for needed changes.

Mary Lou Hegler advised that she attempted to contact the new director of HKYFS Heather, but could only leave a detailed message about our time, and invitation to join the COA for the March Meeting.

**NEW MEDICARE ID NUMBERS** was discussed by the group. Effective April 1<sup>st</sup> the Federal Government will begin a rolling out mailing of new Medicare Cards. Connecticut will not be issued in April, and we will share what is announced with the senior population through MA and Senior Center info board,

and perhaps through the “Senior Scene” We discussed the prevalence of “Scammers” when significant changes take place, and will share whatever help we can to inform the senior population about how to avoid being scammed.

**Motion to adjourn:** Without any new business forthcoming, a motion to adjourn was made by Thurston, and seconded by Mary Lou Pierce. Members voted to adjourn at 11:30 am.

**NEXT MEETING MONDAY APRIL 9, 2018 AT THE ANNEX ON JAIL HILL RD**

Respectfully submitted by,

Robert D Waller

Secretary COA

After the meeting, this writer was advised that there had been a problem with the meal service offering only box lunches when the CRT staffer was absent. Shannon the Director resolved this by becoming certified to perform this operation, thereby ensuring that the participants could reliably receive the hot meals contracted under the lunch program. We will take note of this initiative at our next meeting in April.