

Haddam Committee on Aging Minutes

October 16, 2023

Parmalee Community Center at High Meadows

Chairman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of members and guests.

Attendance: Thurston Clark, Mary Lou Pierce, Mary Lou Heger, Marge DeBold, Robert Waller, Gloria Maynard, JoAnn Woikelman, Becky Rice, Doreen Staskelunas, Wayne Ruty, Jennifer Favalora

Guests: Kim Gionfriddo, Mark Lundgren, Ron Pellerin, Mike Farina, Greg McKenna

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

Minutes From our last meeting in were accepted by the Committee.

Greg McKenna from Nutmeg Pharmacy discussed the importance of the upcoming Drug Take back program. Discussed the amount of Opioids taken by the senior community in their home and during hospice. He talked about the RSV program and the number of seniors who would benefit from this program and the pneumonia that develop in lower parts of the lungs especially diabetics and asthmatics. He has enough stock to meet the needs of the town, with regard to the covid shots the mixing and/or matching of Pfizer and Moderna may be beneficial. Flu shots/the other vaccines should have at least a week break between each one. Committee members had an extensive conversations about the marketing so that as many local residents can receive as these vaccinations as soon as possible. Ron P suggested information go out in tax bills next time.

Senior Center Doreen presented the following information in September there were 192 attendees. They served 99 meals. They offered cooling services for 6 attendees. Oct was a full month. On 10/31 they will be offering the RSV vaccine at 11 am. On 10/26 they were offering a party. Bingo is offered the 1st and 3rd Thursday. The van is available to senior center attendees. We discussed the new meal provider the Estuary and noted improvement with still some issues. We discussed the meals on wheels program still looking for volunteers, it is believed there are less than 5 using the services in town.

Social Services Becky Rice provided services to 62 adults 16 children, 2 families for oil and 4 for paperwork assistance. Her department provided clothing for 55 individuals and she made 0 wellness checks this month. She mentioned she has a new secretary her name is Sarah Chambers. She made note of the different organizations that help with the food drives Youth & Family Services, the Lions Club and Valley Bible (also provides yardwork help).

Senior Van provided 15 medical trips 14 individuals used the shopping trip program.

CRAHD (Health District) Sherry Carlson sent a report that she will be offering flu vaccines on 10/24.

High Meadows Joann W. nothing new at this time.

Club 60 Mary Lou Pierce stated today the First Selectman will be presenting status of the HES elementary school including the 4.5 million grant. Next month Becky Rice will be presenting as well as the music selection by Nancy Meyer.

Youth and Family Services Interim Director Jennifer Favalora discussed the Drug take back program, the fall festival and the weekend for kids fair at HES. She also discussed the mentorship program both at the elementary and the middle school. 14 children are matched up with background checked mentors with a one time a week one hour program. Emphasis will be on role modeling and game playing. She discussed the holiday giving program (presents). To meet the need they are using the stuff a cruiser program to be offered at New Image Auto in Higganum and they will begin the family sponsorship program November 1st. A list of the needs will be shared with Doreen where the Haddam Seniors can participate as well. She also mentioned a new Director is coming on board her name is Behnke. Lastly she encouraged people to attend the November 16th School District community conversation at 6 pm, or at least watch it on HK tv.

Mary Lou Heger checked with the Saybrook of Haddam-Commonwealth to see if they were interested in hosting a COA meeting and they said they were not.

Goals for 2023/24 and Calendar From last month

Bylaws the group discussed and affirmed that the term of members would begin after the election of the First Selectman. At the December COA meeting, the COA will elect their Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary we discussed whether Bylaws need to be changed, it was recommended that we keep the existing Bylaws.

Recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding interested parties wanting to join the COA. We discussed four attendees who have shown interest in joining Kim Gionfriddo, Mark Lundgren, Ron Pellerin, Mike Farina. They indicated they are still interested in joining. **Motion** made by Marge DeBold seconded by JoAnn Woickelman to send Mary Lou Heger's email to the Board of Selectman for consideration of the above.

No New Business

Adjournment Motion made by Marge DeBold and JoAnn Woickelman. The committee agreed to adjourn at 11:50 am

Respectfully submitted.

Notes taken by Bob Waller

Kaye Burgess, Secretary Treasurer

Approved by Attendees

Next meeting Monday November 20, 2023 at Old Town Hall