

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

**Monday November 18, 2019 10:00 am Annex building**

**Attachments:** Agenda, October 2019 Reports, Introductory Letter from COA to new Town Board Members, Survey Subcommittee draft document, Connecticut AAA State Plan preparations presentation for Seniors,

**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 Services, Joann Woickelman, High Meadows Senior Housing. Mark Lundgren, Bob McGarry First Selectman Elect, Marijean Conrad from Library Board,

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

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

**PRESENTATION TO COA BY BRAINERD LIBRARY President Marijean Conrad:** She shared the exterior map of the upcoming library changes with emphasis on the southern parking lot, across from the Senior Center. They will be breaking ground this month. Since the parking lot is informally used by the Center several items may be of concern for seniors. The new lighting, the current crosswalk was chief among them. She advised about consultation with the Town Planner Bill Warner about the opportunity to electrify the corner near the crosswalk after the lights were installed, and perhaps it might be possible now to install crosswalk lights as well, and something discussed by COA in the previous administration. We reviewed the history, with a recollection about it being an extensive project with very high costs, however no record of the Town Board's discussion past our initial request. \* Perhaps it could be the subject of a AAA/Senior Resources Grants request in the new year. Bob will discuss with Tom Piezo. Marijean also advised the COA about the Meet and Greet at the Library on 12/6 to meet with the newly elected representatives in town, along with other elected officials. In February and March, the Library will be sponsoring programs on the US Census, including help to fill out the forms, using computers to fill the forms and the importance of getting a full count of residents in this Census Year. Thurston commented about

the high quality of the BML programs for adults, and we had a short discussion about sharing spaces with them for senior presentations in the future.

**INTRODUCTION OF FIRST SELECTMAN ELECT** Bob McGarry attended. He expressed support of the COA activities in general and highlighted the importance of reaching out to the “shut-ins”. He wanted to make sure we post our Agenda a week before the meetings, so they can make the town website. We shared copies of the year’s schedule. He and the Town Board members are always welcome to attend.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**SENIOR HOUSING PRESIDENT** Joanne Woickelman advised that High Meadows community held their Thanksgiving party last Thursday. 10 residents attended and good time had by all. Jessica attended from Social Services and spoke about the Senior Van, Shopping Trips and the help her office renders to Seniors. At present the complex has a waiting list with 69 waiting on it.

**SOCIAL SERVICES** Jessica Condil advised that requests for services continues to rise, with 40 served in Sept and 50 in October. She spoke about the Warm the Children clothing collection drive now underway. She has a clothing box in the parking lot of her office for clothing collection, not related to the upstairs clothing closet open for distribution on Saturday mornings. In the new box collection Social Services will have a chance to earn funds for local charity programs based on what is brought in. The COA members discussed the wide range of services Jessica provides through her office and opined about training requirements to carry out these services. We briefly discussed the 2020 Senior Expo, and what role the Town will have next year. There was in interest by the outgoing First Selectman to have it town run. \* Preliminary work to secure a site at the Valley Bible Church on Turkey Hill Rd was positive, but a lot of further discussion needs to be had before making a final decision. The COA members also had some questions about the protocol for identifying and serving “housebound” seniors, and those who become same following hospitalization. Jessica’s list contains just under 30 individuals now. The COA wanted to commend Jessica and Colleen on their publicity efforts in the Haddam Bulletin and Haddam News, and wanted to make sure the transportation initiatives remain well publicized. Finally, Jessica advises that she is writing up a formal policy for our locally funded Transportation

“senior van” program. This program of enhanced transportation has been very well received since inception.

Congregate Meals Program at the Senior Center was discussed. Starting a couple of months back the COA members wanted to review the utilization and see if meals could be offered 5 days instead of the current 3 days a week. At the CT State Plan for Area Agencies on Aging presentation last week, Bob spoke to the funding director for our region again about expansion. Contrary to the last meeting this time she was not optimistic expansion could be done in the new year but referred Bob to the CRT meals director Geriann Chiarella (860)5605826, who advised the region was oversubscribed by about 1000 meals a month, and further expansion is not possible now. She offered a couple of options including greater Town contribution or direct pay/contribution per client to cover the added expense. She also offered to meet with COA to discuss the program in general, hear concerns from the Town at a meeting in the future. COA members reported that there were at least 9 individuals who would attend 5 day a week meal program if Senior Van service to meal site were available. The COA members also voiced concern that this could alleviate isolation, promote health and socialization and utilization of the Center. We discussed various other options to provide meals include donations from local restaurants, civic organizations and others to make up no CRT days. \*The COA wants to discuss this further, and perhaps meet with Geriann at some date in the future. We are trying to have the Emergency Preparedness Assistant Mr. McMannus in December.

**CLUB 60** Mary Lou Pierce advised about this afternoon’s program. She also spoke about last week’s Crafts Fair at the Senior Center. The latter was very successful and made over \$1,000 for the fuel bank. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> they will be hosting the Annual Christmas Party to be held at St Peter’s Church community room. As of today, there is 44 seniors signed up. Typically, 80 joins.

**SENIOR SURVEY SUB COMMITTEE** Thurston reported on the meeting last month of the subcommittee. It was recommended that we prepare a survey supplement to the one completed in March 2019 but done mostly by Club 60 members (73). The purpose to reach out to a greater portion of the town’s senior residents. It was recommended this supplement narrow the focus to the most prevalent responses in the March survey, and 200 more at random seniors be selected. \*The subcommittee will meet next week 11/25 10 am at the High Meadows community room to work further on this and share next month with COA.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJUSTMENT TO COA CALENDAR** It was recommended that the date of the Seniors Picnic be changed to June 15 to align with the Club 60 schedule. It was also noted that the Haddam Neck Fair Committee will be offering their grounds to the Senior Picnic again free of charge.

**ADJOURNMENT** On a motion by Beth and seconded by Susan, the COA agreed to adjourn at 11:30 am. Next meeting will be Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the Jail Hill Annex.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Waller, Secretary

12/16/2019 On a motion by Susan Ruddy, and seconded by Beth Hartke, the above minutes were approved by the Committee on Aging all voting Aye.

Submitted to Town Clerk and First Selectman for filing 12/16/2019 RDW