

TOWN OF HADDAM COMMITTEE ON AGING Minutes

Monday OCTOBER 24,2019 10:00 am High Meadows Community Room

Attachments: Agenda, October 2019, Reports

Members Present: R. Thurston Clark, Marge DeBold, Beth Hartke, Mary Lou Heger, Frannie Kosalski, Gloria Maynard, Mary Lou Pierce, Susan Ritty, Robert Waller, Jessica Condil from Social Services, Laurie Rudifer Youth and Family Services, Sherry Carlson from CRAHD, Joann Woickelman, High Meadows Senior Housing.

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

Minutes of the September 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Club 60: Mary Lou Pierce advised that the scheduled Mystery Trip to Thimble Islands had to be cancelled due to rough weather. They had 39 people signed up and came up with an alternative trip to the Environment/wildlife center at Meigs Point at Hammonasset Park. They later went to the Chowder Pot Restaurant for lunch and the program was well received. The Thimble Islands trip will be attempted in the Spring. Today they are promoting health care for females, and on November 18 entertainment by Dually Noted, and on Dec 2 the Club's Christmas Party at St Peter's is scheduled. These programs remain popular and well attended by the senior community.

Haddam Social Services: Jessica Condil reported that the number of people using her office's services continues to rise. She is also working on formalizing Policy for the various programs offered including Transportation, alternatives when the Senior Van is previously scheduled. She will share this with the COA when completed. She mentioned that the Town Board continues to be concerned about any duplication of services between her office and other providers in town. Jessica advised about the Food Bank this year, which typically needs "staples" to have what people need. She expressed gratitude for the community spirit expressed each year with typically 30 Baskets of food given for the needy. She

advised the COA of a new Food Bin in front of the Annex, now taking donations for the Food Bank. Larry Maggi was cited as a regular contributor to the FB along with the usual groups from church and service groups. She noted the placement in front of the Annex, of a Used Clothing Receptacle and explained how it was used. Not to replace the Clothing Program upstairs. The items are picked for local use, then the remainder sold to a textile pick up company and sold with proceeds going to Social Services programs in Haddam.

Haddam Senior Center: We spoke about the Center's utilization as a meal site and some information gleaned from the Area's Agency on Aging's grant manager regarding the number of diners required to meet their expectations for funding and the requirements by CRT to the staff the program and meal delivery. Bob was advised last month that of all the 64 towns in our region only two were operating at levels expected by the program. In effect there is no minimum and we should be able to increase without extra concern. A 7-diner minimum was thought to be the target for Haddam and the usage was about 15 meals per week for the days open for lunch. In anticipation of the sitting of a new Administration, the COA wanted to review further for expansion in mid-November.

Senior Services Survey Review: Members are reviewing the results of the March 2019 survey, but with so much data it was agreed that Sub Committee should be established to review and present back to the COA. Important to the group was to ensure a broad cross section be queried. It was agreed that Thurston, Mary Lou P, Marge, Susan Ruddy, Bob, Mary Lou Heger and Joanne Woikelman join this group. I was agreed that they meet at High Meadows at 1:30pm October 28th to begin working on the material.

HK Youth and Family Services: Lauri provided an overview of how their agency is serving people in town. She cited the Kids Night Off program with the price of admission to bring a canned food item. The Senior Expo last month was attended by 153 people, and 46 vendors offering services to seniors. An unexpectedly very popular program at the Expo was "self-defense for seniors". As always, the entertainment by Jon Conde was a hit, and not duplicated by other town's expos. Her vendor survey showed they "loved it". She noted the great help from High School students and staff as well as the COA members. The concept of vendors presentations to seniors seems to be broadening in appeal as noted by an interest by the Jensen's Mobile Park holding one in 4 weeks. Jessica advised that Haddam may try to offer one next year themselves with the new space at HES Higganum.

A note of caution was expressed by Lauri about some existing grants ending such as the Prevention Grant.

Haddam Meadows Seniors Complex: Joann reported on the status of renovations which are mostly done. However, drainage and sidewalk issues will need to wait till Spring. They have a suggestion box for residents to make concerns known. They are making plans for the Holiday party on Dec 14.

Connecticut River Area Health District: Provided information about the FLU prevalence and availability of vaccinations locally. They continue to provide screenings monthly at the Senior Center.

Senior Emergency Services Review: Marge advised that the Assistant Emergency Manager would be the most appropriate contact with COA. He is Kevin McMannis. Joann W advised that HM is working on a Disaster Plan for their complex. It was agreed that the COA reach out to Kevin and invite him to one of our meetings to discuss issues of interest for seniors in the future.

Senior Handbook Marketing and Review: The members recommended that extra copies be placed in Town Hall. A card thanking Ed Schwing and Melissa Schlag for their help preparing the Handbook and including same as a Pull Out in the September issue of the Haddam Bulletin. Feedback has been very positive, and we hope seniors will use it as a key resource for services in town. Beth will write Ed and Melissa a thankyou card of appreciation from the COA. We explored a reduced size version of the Handbook for merchants like the pharmacy to use for inserts when they deliver to seniors and will continue to explore new placement opportunities to market it throughout the year.

Thanks to Haddam Neck Fair Board: Thurston reported that he wrote the Fair board to thank them for providing the fairgrounds for our picnic this year.

Senior Learning Network update: Bob reported that a free account was established on behalf of the COA to make sure this service would work with the TV and Wi-Fi at the Senior Center. The trial worked good using a loaner camera and computer. 3 possible options were offered to Colleen as a first test and set for next week. Will need to see if the times are compatible with the Center's schedule.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter of introduction to new Town Board Members: Bob will draft an introductory letter to new Board, to be reviewed next month.

WORK FOR NEXT MONTH:

Emergency Mgmt Seniors: Reach out to Kevin McManis

Introductory Letter: To new Town Board Members

Senior Survey; Review recommendations from Sub Committee

MOTION TO ADJURN: Made by Mary Lou Pierce and seconded by Beth at 11:30 agreed by all.

Next MEETING MONDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2019 at ANNEX 10am

Respectfully submitted by, Robert D Waller, Secretary

11/18/2019 On a motion by Beth and seconded by Mary Lou Pierce, the minutes were accepted all voting aye. Rdw

Sent to Town Clerk, First Selectman & Assistant for filing and addition to Town Web site 11/18/2019 rdw