

Meeting Minutes
Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting
Easton Senior Center
Monday, June 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 PM. Present were Linda Dollard, Gail V. Gay, Phyllis Machledt, Joel Peskay, Margaret Silvestri, Lisa Tasi, and Alison Witherbee, Municipal Agent/Senior Social Services.

1. The minutes of the May 5, 2014 meeting were read and unanimously approved on a motion by Margaret Silvestri, seconded by Phyllis Machledt.
2. Old Business
No old business was discussed.
3. New Business
 - a. Municipal Agent's Report
Alison Witherbee had a busy month in May 2014. She met with many senior citizens to assist on MSP paperwork. She helped during the ESC's 1950's-themed party and met even more seniors. She is preparing a presentation on the Municipal Agents' office to give at the upcoming Lion's Club meeting (ESC Director Val Buckley is unable to attend and suggested Alison to go). Alison passed her CHOICES counseling exam. The CHOICES intern, Mike, has been helpful when assisting Alison with information for insurance programs to interested seniors. Approximately 15 people attended the May 16th Health Fair, an interactive event based on health and wellness. A visit and tour was made to Middlebrook Farms on May 20th. Other responsibilities have been geared towards several ongoing cases and dealing with the sad news of the passings of two seniors.
 - b. Updates on Senior Cases
Alison provided information on recent senior cases in town. As the cases were delicate in nature yet resolved with dignity, there is need to establish more clarification and defined "boundaries" so as not to overlap any legal issues (be it conservatorship or Advanced Directives).
 - c. ECS and projects
The COA discussed the suggestion by ECS Director to COA to consider sponsoring or running one of its programs between now and the end of the year. (This was outlined in an open letter by Val to residents and friends and included in the June 2014 ECS newsletter.) Although many of the suggested topics are already covered by various charitable funding, more information is required on the overall set up,

administration and allocation/distribution of these proposed separate projects' funds before any decision is made by the COA .

d. SWCAA Report

Phyllis Machledt, the Commission's representative to the Advisory Council of the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging reported on the Council's recent activities. There are two upcoming events, both on June 6th: "Compassion & Choice" in Wethersfield and "To Whom It May Concern" in Stamford. They address health, dementia and care giving situations. There are also other local initiatives directed towards the senior population on mental health issues- a sensory playground and walkway project in Stratford, and a recent presentation given by the Westport Fire Department on Safety Concerns and Mental Health. Phyllis advised that the Town of Monroe, CT has funded a 19.5 hr position for a Mental Health specialist (for all age groups). SWCAA grant applications will be reviewed on June 6th.

e. Other Items

Joel Peskay provided information on the recent DTC Real Estate Forum and the COA discussed the senior population and the need amenities and housing in the entire region. More discussion, news and ideas will be shared at upcoming meetings.

f. Next meeting

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2014.

4. Adjourn:

Gail V. Gay moved to adjourn, Lisa Tasi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Tasi, Secretary, Commission on Aging

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SECRETARY CLERK

on calendar at 9:33

ASST