

Meeting Minutes
TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
Commission for the Aging
Monthly Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 PM. Present were: Linda Dollard, Phyllis Machledt, Karen Martin, Lisa Tasi and Eileen Zimmerman / Municipal Agent – Senior Services. Mary Pajonas was not present.

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the December 4, 2017 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members via a motion by Phyllis Machledt and Karen Martin.

2. Unfinished Business

A. MCS Fund

Town Finance Direct Christine Calvert has updated Eileen Zimmerman and Lisa Tasi with regards to financial statement and current monies in the MCS Fund. The reports are run by Fiscal Year (July through June) instead of Calendar Year, so FY2018 covers July 2017 to present.

3. New Business

A. Updates on CT State Budget-Medicare-Senior Population

State Representative (R-135) Adam Dunsby was a guest at today's CFA meeting. He discussed status of the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) which provides financial assistance to Connecticut seniors and disabled individuals who rely on these particular funds to pay for Medicare coinsurance, deductibles and premiums. The State Legislature had originally cut the programs funding to help balance a bipartisan \$41.3 billion state budget. However, that move prompted calls from concerned seniors to the members of the General Assembly and Department of Social Services. Since then the \$54 million for the MSP program has been restored, until July 1st when Governor Malloy can use his executive power to veto the legislation. Legislative leaders recently have said they also want to reverse the program cutbacks in the coming fiscal year — or at least scale them back somewhat - proposals on how to fund that change are in progress.

B. 2018 Planning and Projects

Various ideas are in progress and in coordination with the Municipal Agent's events.

C. SWCCA Report

Phyllis Machledt, SWCCA representative, provided an update on the organization. It is monitoring the developments on the State Budget and MSP which is now extended through July 1, 2018. The Fairfield County Hospice House (FCHH) the first residential hospice home in Connecticut is now opened in Stamford, CT. The next SWCCA meeting will take place on February 14, 2018 in Trumbull.

D. Municipal Agent's Report

The months of December and January were very busy. A forum was held with State Senator Tony Hwang (R-Fairfield) and State Senator Kevin Kelly (R-Stratford), along with Sharon Gesiek, Director of Programs, SWCCA, to address and discuss the MSP changes. Eileen Zimmerman delivered Holiday Baskets to Easton Seniors with assistance by Pam Healy. During the cold weather freeze in early January,

Eileen addressed some issues with seniors and non-seniors needing emergency oil, as well as making RUOK phone calls to seniors 70 years and older. Eileen is also touring local rehabilitation centers and long term care homes. Eileen was asked to join the Primary Care Action Group (PCAG), a collaboration of local hospitals, departments of public health, federally qualified health centers, health advocacy groups and numerous community and not-profit organizations serving the greater Bridgeport, Connecticut area. PCAG's goal is to measurably improve the health of area residents through increasing access of the underserved and uninsured to primary and specialty care, and to affordable health insurance coverage for all. One major issue of the subcommittee is to develop a tool to address substance abuse/mental health issues for adults who present in the Emergency depts. Eileen has also reviewed the 2018-2019 budget and planning and will be attending meetings with local area senior centers.

E. Other New Items

Eileen Zimmerman is working with CHOICES counselors to set up monthly appointments to address Medicare questions. She is also setting up information events and panels for the spring.

F. Other updates from CFA Members

With the departure of Joel Peskay, Lisa Tasi is the current Chairperson. Gail V. Gay and Mary Pajonas have also left the CFA. Karen Martin is becoming a Full member of the CFA. The respective Town Committees as well as Town Hall are aware that there are Member openings. Eileen Zimmerman and Lisa Tasi will be contacted by Town Hall when new members are appointed.

G. Open Discussion

No other items were discussed.

4. Next Meeting

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2018 at 5:00 PM at the ESC. The agenda will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for proper posting.

5. Adjourn

Linda Dollard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Phyllis Machledt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:39 PM.

Submitted by,
Lisa V. Tasi

Chair, Commission for the Aging