

Meeting Minutes  
Commission for the Aging  
Town of Easton, CT

Meeting – Monday, June 6, 2022 – 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Held at the Easton Senior Center

Attendees: Anne Hughes, Melinda O'Brien, Diane Parker, Lisa Tasi, and Alison Witherbee /  
Municipal Agent for the Aging – Social Services Director. Linda Dollard was not in attendance.

Chairman's Update

Linda Dollard advised Lisa Tasi that she will be stepping down from the Commission for the Aging. She was honored to serve on the committee. She will be contacting the Board of Selectmen with her resignation letter. The CFA members signed a card for Linda and earlier had sent a thinking of you basket to her.

Meeting Minutes

The prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved on a motion by Anne Hughes and seconded by Melinda O'Brien.

Ongoing Business

- MSC Fund

No update at this meeting.

-Municipal Agent's Report

The "What Tips Your Balance" presentation was a huge success. Alison had 25 attendees who learned about fall risks and safety measures from nurses associated with the Aspetuck Health Services. A healthy menu of microgreens from Gilbertite's and Trader Joes rounded out the event. Alison is planning to repeat this presentation in the fall.

The "Grow a Row" program begins on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. It is associated with the Stamford-based "Food Rescue" - <http://www.foodrescue.us/>. Every week from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Shaggy Coos will be the drop off site where gardeners can drop off donated locally grown items (vegetables, eggs...). Alison is starting off with 10 seniors for delivery of food bags. She is coordinating this project with Diane Geisert at Food Rescue.Us. To learn more about the initiative, please contact Diane Geisert at [diane@foodrescue.us](mailto:diane@foodrescue.us) not Shaggy Coos.

- SWCCA <https://www.swcaa.org/>

SWCCA has had lots of meetings and most recently there was a presentation on Medicare Fraud Week. Senior Medicare Patrol | SMP | Medicare Fraud Protection ([smpresource.org](http://smpresource.org))  
June 2022 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Senior Medical Patrol (SMP) Program and the organization has created a national week focusing on Medicare Fraud Protection.

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week runs from June 5<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup>. The information informs seniors on how to prevent Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse. Alison will be posting information flyers from the PR Tool kit on a daily basis at the ESC.

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week ([smpresource.org](http://smpresource.org))

#### Open Discussion

The CFA members discussed the topic of Rehabilitation, Long-Term and Short-Term as well as outlets of in-home health aides / private care givers in the area. There are many accredited organizations that provide custom care services on premises or in the home. The importance of using accredited agencies is to ensure the patient, family, community and the insurer that safe, responsible and appropriate care is provided to the patient.

The State Unit on Aging also ensures that Connecticut's elders have access to the supportive services necessary to live with dignity, security, and independence. The unit is responsible for planning, developing, and administering a comprehensive and integrated service delivery system for older persons in Connecticut. More specifically, the unit administers Older Americans Act programs for supportive services, in-home services, and congregate and home-delivered meals. It also administers programs that provide senior community employment, health insurance counseling, and respite care for caregivers. State Unit on Aging ([ct.gov](http://ct.gov))

The CFA also discussed the importance of available transportation for seniors or those who cannot or do not drive. Anne mentioned that there are Federal and State Programs administered by CTDOT, as well as CT State Matching Grant Programs for the Demand Responsive Transportation for Elderly and People with Disabilities. Funds are available to any municipality and apportioned based on the formula in the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) 13b-38bb. Human Services Transportation Programs ([ct.gov](http://ct.gov))

The CFA does not meet during the summer months. The next meeting of the CFA will be held on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 ( as Monday is Labor Day Holiday) at the ESC from 5-6 PM. The notice will be sent in for proper posting.

The CFA committee will remain in contact during the summer months for communication from Alison as well as any legislative updates from Anne Hughes.

The meeting concluded at 6:10 PM, on a motion by Anne Hughes, seconded by Diane Parker and approved.

Submitted by,

Commission for the Aging  
L. Tasi