

Meeting Minutes  
Commission for the Aging  
Town of Easton, CT

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

Attendees: Anne Hughes, Nanette DeWester, Jessica DiPietro, Paul Lindoerfer, Diane Parker, Lisa Tasi, and Alison Witherbee / Municipal Agent for the Aging – Social Services Director.

The meeting started at 5:05 PM. A welcome was made to Paul Lindoerfer, new Member.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were reviewed and approved on a motion by Anne Hughes and seconded by Jessica DiPietro.

Ongoing Business

- MSC Fund

A fiscal report was provided by Christine Calvert, Finance Director for the Town of Easton.

-Municipal Agent's Report

Alison has been working with applications for Energy Assistance for both new and returning client residents. In January she attended an event at the East Side Senior Center in Bridgeport where representatives from Alliance, SCG and UI discussed the current energy issues and the programs they have in place to assist those in financial need with cost increases. The UI price increase is one of the biggest concerns.

Alison also attended a Zoom meeting with Anne Hughes where the topic focused on scams involving seniors and the steps to prevent scams from happening.

Alison will be providing information on Senior Tax Relief in her March and April newsletters. The information will be helpful to qualifying seniors within guidelines to receive a property tax relief.

The National Charities League has been delivering "cheer baskets" to seniors for outreach.

The presentation on "The Five Wishes" is scheduled for next Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Jessica DiPietro will be discussing the advance care planning program which focuses on personal, emotional, and spiritual needs as well as medical wishes.

Budget planning is underway for the next fiscal year.

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

Alison attended a meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Center for Senior Activities in Westport. There was a review on what was learned during the COVID19 pandemic and how it affected members' work as advocates for the senior population. They are conducting site visits for potential grants.

## Planning

The "Grow-A-Row" project, conducted during this past summer, (in collaboration with FoodRescue.US, based in Norwalk) , is on tap to once again be underway for 2023. Volunteers provide additional produce surplus from local businesses to supplement those tagged by social service agencies serving the food insecure. Information updates and possible grant support will be reviewed at next meeting.

## Open Discussion

CFA members discussed the importance of senior awareness about services by town agencies and venues. Specific sectors are services by the Municipal Agent/Social Services , town first responders, town amenities as well as the ESC van transportation and disposal of unused medicines / prescriptions. Also discussed were contact lists, emergency related issues and direction for obtaining support services. Members are all in agreement to create an informational piece on this message, especially since it will be useful for the elderly Easton residents. Ideas will be reviewed by the members before final sign off.

Discussion also revolved around the terms "homebound", "shut-in" and "elderly", as well as outreach to those in the "senior" population. Lisa shared that approximately 24% of Easton seniors are over the age of 80 years old and roughly 5% of Easton seniors are over the age of 90 years old. Communication and outreach are key to this older demographic. The M.A. is available to visit home bound seniors who welcome a friendly visit.

The meeting concluded at 6:15 PM, on a motion by Dianne Parker, seconded by Jessica DiPietro and approved.

Submitted by,

Commission for the Aging  
L. Tasi