

Meeting Minutes  
Commission for the Aging  
Town of Easton, CT

Meeting – Monday, March 6, 2023 – 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Held at the Easton Senior Center

Attendees: Anne Hughes, Jessica DiPietro, Paul Lindoerfer, Diane Parker, Lisa Tasi, and Alison Witherbee / Municipal Agent for the Aging – Social Services Director. Nanette DeWester was not in attendance.

The meeting started at 5:03 PM.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were reviewed and approved on a motion by Paul Lindoerfer and seconded by Diane Parker.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Ongoing Business

- MSC Fund

No update at today's meeting.

-Municipal Agent's Report

Alison had a good turnout for the February 14<sup>th</sup> presentation on The Five Wishes. Jessica DiPietro walked through the key points.

Information on Easton Senior Tax Relief Program was outlined in Alison's letter which is part of the March Easton Senior Center newsletter. More information with regards to guidelines for qualifying seniors will be expanded upon in the April letter.

Alison has been busy with Operation Fuel applications for energy assistance. In February, the energy assistance program was paused due to a significant demand for energy assistance. The Nonprofits announced that it will resume providing energy assistance on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will reduce the energy grants from \$1,000 per household to \$500 so it can serve more households. Alison has been utilizing funds from the Salvation Army as a first way for paying utility invoices, followed as needed by MSC Fund as second.

Alison will be presenting to the Easton Exchange Club at one of its next meetings on all that the MA / SSD does within the Town of Easton.

A presentation on Caregiving Do's and Don'ts will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> and another presentation about Alzheimer's will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be held at the ESC in the morning.

- SWCCA      <https://www.swcaa.org/>

Alison will be attending an SWCCA Advisory Board meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> where the members will be discussing various grant sites and other issues within the SWCCA community.

### Planning

CFA reviewed the draft postcard which is in progress. It will provide a snapshot on services of the Town of Easton which are pertinent especially for Easton Seniors. The bullet points are important contact information and telephone numbers as well as having a list of some adjunct services, such as the Aspetuck Health District. Final draft will be reviewed in the next week before printing and mailing. Additional copies will be shared at upcoming Easton events, like the Garden Mart and Town events.

"Grow-A-Row" project – Alison had a meeting with Diane Geisert about the Summer 2023 Grow-A-Row. Once all is in motion, the food surplus organization is targeted for a Tuesday collection, bagging and delivery out. Members will plan to assist with some type of sign-up list. More discussion will follow. The project is an offshoot of the FoodRescue.US program based in Norwalk.

### Open Discussion

CFA members reviewed the importance of town services in respect to seniors, such as "do those seniors who may have medical or nurse assistance visit at home plan for snow plowing ? ; and "are seniors fully aware of what services are available to them as a taxpayer and within the local/regional area (i.e., services such as SWCCA ) ?".

Home Safety Assessment for Seniors - Usually a baseline assessment of a senior's home is made to provide suggestions for improvements - safety issues , accessories, lighting evaluation - and if necessary modifications can be made to prevent falls at home or other safety first measures.

There are companies that are vetted and insured to allow for seniors to remain at home safely. The CFA members believed that educational information outward to seniors for these types of services can be helpful. The National Institute on Aging is one source that discusses elderly safety at home.

The meeting concluded at 6:05 PM, on a motion by Jessica DiPietro , seconded by Paul Lindoerfer and approved.

Submitted by,

Commission for the Aging  
L. Tasi