

Commission for the Aging
Town of Easton, CT

Monday, May 1, 2023
Held at the Easton Senior Center

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

Meeting Minutes

The March meeting minutes were approved via a motion by Anne Hughes and seconded by Diane Parker.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Ongoing Business

-CFA Mailer

The CFA Mailer has been printed. Alison shared copies with the CFA members. Photographer Shannon Calvert captured a wonderful photo of the Easton Senior Center. The mailer lists important services (with telephone numbers) that are available – Municipal Agent, Van transportation services, Medical Equipment Loan Closet, Senior Tax Relief program, Medication Drop Off Box, Library Books to Go, Notary Services and the Aspetuck Health District. Other important contact information, specifically for the Town of Easton, is listed on the front side (address label side) under "Useful resources". The mailer will be sent out in mid-May. The CFA members thanked Shannon Calvert.

-Grow-A-Row

Planning for the second season of the Grow-A-Row project is underway. Plans are for summertime distribution. A sign up for volunteers (Tuesday is the drop date) is underway.

-Municipal Agent's Report

Alison updated the CFA member on her latest projects. The Alzheimer's event was worthy for information to attending seniors. Additional personalized talk about warning signs for the illness was discussed.

The Exchange Club of Easton had its April 18th meeting where Alison updated the organization on all the important functions of the Municipal Agent / Social Services. Alison hopes that the organization can support these endeavors.

Alison attended an all-day meeting (via Zoom) on Senior Medicare Patrol Foundations training. The SMP comprises a group of volunteer organizations funded by the US Dept of Health and Human Services to educate U.S. Seniors on how to prevent, detect and report Medicare and Medicaid fraud. Senior Medicare Patrol | SMP | Medicare Fraud Protection (smpresource.org)

The Aspetuck Health Group will be starting a committee for Community Health Needs Assessment to support the member towns' health and well-being. The first meeting will be held on May 13th. Aspetuck Health District – Public Health Services and Information for Our Communities (aspetuckhd.org) . Alison will provide the CFA members with a report at the next meeting.

The Easton Garden Club will be having its annual Garden Mart Plant Sale on Saturday, May 13th. Alison will have information on the Grow-A-Row project at a designated table on the Easton Town Firehouse Green.

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

Alison attended the SWCCA Advisory Committee meeting on April 12th. She will be serving on its Nominating Committee which finds new board members.

Other Discussion

Members recapped the ongoing elaboration of scams involving seniors. Lisa mentioned the latest scams which involve a 'wrong number' call or especially tax season and health care scams. Many unsuspecting individuals (seniors) pick up the telephone and then engage in the scam.

Jessica brought up the scenario of gun safety and grandchildren. This topic is warranted as there is a 2022 p.r. campaign / media advertisement on neighborhood children play dates and the dangers of firearms left unlocked. Northwell Health Addresses Gun Safety by Equating it With Owning a Tiger (adweek.com) . The CFA would entertain some type of forum with this topic for grandparents / senior citizen age range which would involve gun safety as well as incorporating drug safety (making sure that prescription drugs are not readily accessible within a relative's home). More information / research to come for a presentation that can aptly be titled, "Be Safe So Others You Love Are Safe Too".

CFA and Alison broached the topic of the film "Aging in America", which offers a compassionate, often surprising glimpse into the real lives of those who are reaching their "golden" years in the first part of the twenty-first century, when the fastest growing

segment of society is people over 85. The CFA may revisit showing this film again soon.
Icarus Films: Aging in America

The meeting concluded at 5:55 PM with approval based on a motion by Anne Hughes and seconded by Jessica DiPietro. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 5th from 5-6 PM at the ESC.

Submitted by,
Commission for the Aging
L. Tasi