

Meeting Minutes  
TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT  
Commission for the Aging  
Special Meeting  
Easton Senior Center  
Monday, February 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 PM. Present were Gail V. Gay, Phyllis Machledt, Karen Martin, Mary Pajonas, Joel Peskay, Lisa Tasi, and Alison Witherbee / Municipal Agent-Senior Social Services. Linda Dollard was not present.

The minutes of the December 6<sup>th</sup> Special meeting was reviewed and approved on a motion by Joel Peskay and seconded by Gail V. Gay.

1. Unfinished Business

a. MCS Fund

There was no update for this month's meeting. Awaiting a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2016 report.

2. New Business

a. Update on Salvation Army meeting

Alison shared the process involved of Salvation Army outreach and the various programs (food pantry; utility assistance; holiday meal assistance) which are available. <http://ctri.salvationarmy.org/SNE/Bridgeport> The local branch is also affiliated with United Way of Coastal Fairfield County and the Connecticut Food Bank.

b. Plans for Upcoming Social Services Fair

Alison and CFA members discussed ideas where Easton organizations (EMS, EPD, and EVFD) can come out to speak to local senior citizens on pertinent topics. A late spring gathering is being planned.

c. Municipal Agent's Report

Alison had a busy December with the Holiday outreach to seniors with caroling provided by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Easton Girl Scout Troop and Poinsettia plants delivered by the Easton Garden Club. The Teen Tech volunteer program spearheaded by a JBHS student was very successful and plans are to do another workshop in 2017. A Social Services Fair is being planned for further outreach to seniors. Alison wrote a letter to the Editor of the Easton Courier to highlight the importance of community outreach and thank those sectors involved in supporting the M.A. office. Alison submitted an application for a senior in need to be considered for HomeFront, a program associated with AmeriCares. HomeFront a community-based, volunteer-driven home repair program that provides free repairs to low-income homeowners, selected through an application process based on income and other specified parameters. Projects are completed in one day by a designated team in May. There is ongoing communication with the Salvation Army and the director of the Fairfield Senior Center to learn more about their respective programs aimed at seniors.

d. SWCCA Report

Phyllis Machledt (SWCCA representative) reported that the most recent SWCCA meeting address CHOICES certified counselors vs. independent brokers who advise on healthcare options and plans. A common problem is that local seniors do not really know where to obtain the information they need, for example - who to contact for health issues, where to get transportation services, etc... The 2016-17 Senior Services Directory is currently available on the SWCCA site. The purpose of the Directory is to provide senior adults, aging network service providers, caregivers, family members, students and other interested persons with information on aging and long-term care services available in the southwestern region.

<http://www.swcaa.org/services-2/?print=print>

The next SWCCA meeting is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Bigelow Center in Fairfield, CT. Alison plans to attend on behalf of Phyllis. SWCCA meets the second Wednesday of the month.

(Southwestern CT Agency on Aging - <http://www.swcaa.org>).

e. Other items

CFA Member Margaret Silvestri has completed her term as member and has decided not to seek another term. Mary Pajonas will step up to full member status.

CFA members discussed the types of community outreach and various needs of local seniors, specifically transportation services.

3. Next meeting

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

4. Adjourn:

Phyllis Machledt moved to adjourn the meeting, Joel Peskay seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved and agreed upon at 6:20 PM.

Submitted by,  
Lisa V. Tasi, Secretary, Commission for the Aging