

Meeting Minutes
TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
Commission for the Aging
Special Meeting
Easton Senior Center
Tuesday, April 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:13 PM. Present were Gail V. Gay, Phyllis Machledt, Joel Peskay, Margaret Silvestri, Lisa Tasi, and Alison Witherbee, Municipal Agent/Senior Social Services. Linda Dollard was not present.

1. The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Margaret Silvestri and seconded by Gail V. Gay.
2. Unfinished Business
 - a. MCS Fund
The CFA members will monitor the MCF fund for activity and will ask for an update report from the new Town Comptroller (Grace Stanczyk is retiring).
3. New Business
 - a. Update on Veteran's Program / Contact Person in Easton, CT
The State of CT Department of Veteran's Affairs has launched a program where each town's Municipal Agent would act as an assistant to Veterans. Alison Witherbee has received information from Town Hall on behalf of Thomas Stefanko, Director of Advocacy for the CT's Department of Veteran's Affairs. Alison will be attending training in May. The program's mission is to provide assistance to all veterans for services and benefits and disseminating information.
 - b. Update on "Healing the Heart" Group
The name of the bereavement group is "Healing the Heart", and it will provide a setting of support / therapy / education. Five people have signed up for the first meeting set for April 7th and the program will run through May 12th. The group will have discussion on related topics. The co-leader will be Marguerite McVay. The local churches of Easton have distributed the flyer promoting this service.
 - c. Update on Easton Planning & Zoning questionnaire for Senior / Affordable Housing

Alison Witherbee was contacted by P&Z Director John Hayes to assist with a survey to address Senior / Affordable Housing. All towns in Connecticut are required to have a plan of conservation and development which conveys the vision for the town and guides the decisions of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Easton's current plan, available on the town website, was written in 2006 and must be revised this year. The CFA discussed concerns on the timeframe of the survey and the parameters and information which are needed to conduct an adequate survey. Alison was asked to contact John Hayes for more specifics on the project and what type of questions need to be asked to gather data, as well as the template / format of the survey (mail, "survey monkey" program). A meeting with John Hayes will be set up accordingly.

d. Municipal Agent's Report

Alison Witherbee will be attending a meeting in Groton, CT hosted by CAMAE (CT Association of Municipal Agents for the Elderly) to hear about a wide range of educational, recreational, health and social services to older adults. SWCCA will be at the ESC to host two presentations on Senior Medicare Patrol and the Medicare Savings Program. Alison has ongoing work with seniors with regards to Medicare enrollment and senior issues. She has also invited Attorney Sharon Creegan to hold Advanced Directives presentations in May with follow up appointments. Alison has visited the Redding, CT Senior Center ("The Heritage Center") to learn about the support services and activities it provides. Alison is pursuing more information to set up a presentation (along with Redding, CT) on a proposed bill by U.S. Senator Chris Murphy called the "Social Security Caregiver Credit Act". It would create a credit to provide modest retirement compensation to individuals who have had to leave the workforce in order to care for a loved one. The credit, which individuals can claim for up to a maximum of 60 months, is progressive and would vary on an income based sliding scale.

<http://www.minutemannewscenter.com/articles/2016/03/24/fairfield/news/doc56f42a743f333060525374.txt>

e. SCWAA Report

Phyllis Machledt (SWCCA representative) reported that the agency is reviewing Nutritional Issues and the programs which provide bag lunches in the area. The new Director of Programs is Sharon Gesek. The next SWCCA meeting is scheduled for April 13th. (Southwestern CT Agency on Aging - <http://www.swcaa.org>).

f. CFA Meeting Date Changes for May and June meetings

The next CFA meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd and Tuesday, June 7th, 2016. The CFA members are in agreement for the change of meeting dates. As the meetings will convene on Tuesdays (instead of the first Monday of the month), these monthly meeting will be each known as a "Special Meeting".

g. Other items

Various topics on senior outreach and events were discussed by the CFA members.

4. Next meeting

The Commission's next meeting, "Special Meeting", will be held on Tuesday, May, 3, 2016.

5. Adjourn:

Gail V. Gay moved to adjourn the meeting, Margaret Silvestri seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:33 PM.

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