

Meeting Minutes
TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
Commission for the Aging
Monthly Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM. Present were: Linda Dollard, Gail V. Gay, Phyllis Machledt, Karen Martin, Mary Pajonas, Joel Peskay, Lisa Tasi and Eileen Zimmerman / Municipal Agent – Senior Services.

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 6, 2017 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members via a motion by Linda Dollard and Karen Martin.

2. Unfinished Business

MCS Fund

a. Financial Report

Eileen received a report from Town Finance Director Christine Calvert. The financial statement indicated current monies in the MCS Fund, which resides in a CT Short Term Investment Fund. A monthly report / monthly statement will be provided for the next meeting.

3. New Business

a. CT State Budget / Seniors / Medicare Savings Plan

The CFA members discussed the potential cut to the current Medicare Savings Program via the proposed new CT State Budget. The State of CT provides financial assistance to eligible Medicare enrollees through the "Medicare Savings Program" - *which helps low-income and disabled Medicare recipients by giving them some benefits of the Medicaid program, a joint federal-state health plan for the poor.* These programs may help pay Medicare Part B premiums, deductibles and co-insurance. State lawmakers are planning a special session before the end of the year to restore funding and lessen the blow to a program that helps seniors afford Medicare health coverage as tens of thousands of seniors would lose their MSP at the start of the 2018 (the eligibility level would be lowered from @\$24K to @\$12K, crossing all socio-economic lines and urban / rural areas).

<http://portal.ct.gov/dss/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicare-Savings-Program/Medicare-Savings-Program>
<https://ctmirror.org/2017/11/02/ct-budget-cuts-program-that-helps-low-income-and-disabled-medicare-patients/>

CFA will follow developing news updates and plans to address this topic in the New Year.

B.SWCCA Report

Phyllis Machledt, SWCCA representative (Southwestern CT Agenda on Aging – <http://www.swcca.org>) provided an update on the recent Transportation meeting held at ESC with SWCCA Representative Pat Knebel, to discuss current methods of transportation already in place in Easton, assess the future needs of Easton and brainstorm for possible additional venues for transportation. Linda Dollard, Eileen Zimmerman also attended. SWCCA is also monitoring the CT Budget process and the Medicare Saving Program situation.

c. Suggestions for Future Programs and Presentations

The CFA and Municipal Agent Eileen Zimmerman discussed several of topics of interest and ideas to present in 2018. A list was compiled at this meeting. Ongoing discussion and implementation will be made at the next meeting.

d. Municipal Agent's Report

Eileen Zimmerman had a busy month in November by hosting another Medicare Open Enrollment session as well as addressing the Veteran's Administration Aid and Attendance program. She has been meeting with CHOICES counselors and other area representatives. Eileen participated at the annual Salvation Army Kettle Bell event, held at Stop and Shop. She gathered some Joel Barlow High School volunteers to assist. Some of the proceeds can be utilized by Easton's Social Service Dept. for qualifying residents. Eileen has also been reaching out to ERCC (Easton Redding Cares Coalition) to gather more information. Plans are to review ongoing lists with Pam Healy to have updated information for the office.

e. Selection of new CFA Chairperson

Joel Peskay is stepping down from the CFA and subsequently a new Chairperson is needed for 2018. Lisa Tasi, currently service as Secretary, has expressed interest to become Chairperson. At the same time, Mary Pajonas has expressed interest to move into the role of Secretary. Via a motion by Linda Dollard and Phyllis Machledt, both members were approved for these roles.

f. Goodbyes

Both Joel Peskay and Gail V. Gay will conclude their tenures on the CFA. Each has advised the Town of Easton. The members of the CFA thanked both for their work and service. CFA members plan to be in touch with them as each is a source of knowledge.

g. Other items

No other items were discussed.

4. Next Meeting

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM at the ESC. (There will be no meeting in January 2018). The agenda will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for proper posting.

5. Adjourn

Gail V. Gay made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Phyllis Machledt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:40 PM.

Submitted by,

Lisa V. Tasi, Secretary, Commission for the Aging, Easton, CT