

Meeting Minutes
TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
Commission for the Aging
Regular Meeting
Easton Senior Center
Monday, March 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 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 December 1, 2014 meeting were read and unanimously approved on a motion by Phyllis Machledt, seconded by Gail V. Gay.
2. Unfinished Business
 - a. There were no items to discuss.
3. New Business
 - a. Town of Easton Workplace Safety Plan
Discussion on the plan submitted on January 6, 2015 to all Easton Commissions, Boards and Committee Chairs by First Selectman, Adam Dunsby. The Commission for the Aging committee members were in agreement with the outline presented.
 - b. Martha Carrie Shurman Fund
An update was provided with information received from Grace Stanczyk at Easton Town Hall.
 - c. Municipal Agent's Report
Alison Witherbee marked her one year anniversary as Municipal Agent on February 18th. She has been busy with seniors who have requests for Fuel Assistance. Alison attended a SWCAA meeting (in place of Phyllis Machledt) and learned about the TEFT grant (Testing Experience & Functional Tools) and Personal Health Records. This grant introduces health IT to the population. Connecticut is one of only nine states to be admitted participation in the program and one of only six states awarded funding to administer all four components of the grant (<http://www.ct.gov/dss/lib/dss/hit/teftoverview.pdf>). Alison will also be attending upcoming Municipal Agent meetings through the CT Conferences of Municipalities. There are some projects and presentations in development for the later spring months.

- d. Bereavement Group
The group has been meeting every last Wednesday of the month at 12Noon and has been quite supportive in its outreach to attendees. After Daylight Savings Time change, the group will meet at 4:00 PM.
- e. Donation by CFA to the purchase of new ESC van
The February 14th, 2015 open letter to the friends of the Easton Senior Center was discussed concerning a project to purchase a new 8-seat wheelchair accessible ambulatory passenger van. A motion was made by Gail V. Gay that the Commission for the Aging direct the Municipal Agent, Alison Witherbee, to procure a check request via the Martha Carrie Shurman Fund in the amount of \$1,000 to support the appeal by the ESC for the purchase of the new van. This motion was seconded by Phyllis Machledt and unanimously approved.
- f. Draft of Letter for Donation
Discussion and review on Alison's thought to send a letter asking if a charitable donation from estate of Easton Senior can be made to the Martha Carrie Shurman Fund.
- g. Budget Update
Alison completed work on the proposed budget, with the assistance of Grace Stanzcyk. The hearing will be on March 10th before the Board of Finance.
- h. SWCAA Report
Updates were provided by Alison Witherbee and Phyllis Machledt, (SWCCA representative) during the course of the CFA meeting.
- i. Fairfield Senior Center Newsletter (February 2015) article on Fuel Assistance
Lisa sent copies of the newsletter to Joel and Alison regarding the Fairfield, CT Fuel Assistance program and its requirements for qualifying seniors. Alison is reviewing formation of similar program.
- j. Update on February 23rd Special Town Meeting on Senior Tax Relief
New requirements were presented and voted upon. They include the following: Asset limit is now raised from \$500,000 to \$750,000. The scope of assets to be included in the limit has also increased. The old limit of \$500,000 included only liquid assets (cash, stocks, bonds, etc.). The new limit, in addition to liquid assets, includes retirement assets (IRAs, 401(k)s, etc.) and second homes. Also, the maximum

percentage credit based on an income calculation has been raised to 46% from 42%.

k. Other items

CFA members discussed various topics on seniors and local area topics and news.

4. Next meeting

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Monday, April 6, 2015.

5. Adjourn:

Gail V. Gay moved to adjourn, Lisa V. Tasi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:25 PM.

Submitted by,

Lisa V. Tasi, Secretary, Commission for the Aging