

Meeting Minutes
Commission for the Aging
Town of Easton, CT

Special Meeting – Monday, May 9, 2022 – 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Held at the Easton Senior Center

Attendees: Nanette DeWester, Anne Hughes, Lisa Tasi, and Alison Witherbee / Municipal Agent for the Aging – Social Services Director, Linda Dollard, Melinda O'Brien and Diane Parker were not in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

The April meeting minutes were tabled until next meeting.

Ongoing Business

- MSC Fund

No update at this meeting.

New Business

Elder Abuse:

Anne Hughes provided an update from the Connecticut General Assembly concerning Elder Abuse and the SB286 "An Act Concerning Deadlines for Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Elder Abuse and Penalties for Failure to Report". AN ACT CONCERNING DEADLINES FOR MANDATORY REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ELDER ABUSE AND PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REPORT.

The reporting deadline for suspected Elder Abuse has been reduced from 72 hours to 24 hours, mandated reporting timeframes for elderly protective services, adds a training requirement for violators, and eliminates related fines for first-time offenses.

As per CT Gov website, The Attorney General's Office, in cooperation with the Coalition for Elder Justice in Connecticut (CEJC), has launched the Elder Justice Hotline – 1-860-808-5555, a new resource to help older adults in Connecticut seek information, assistance, and justice.

The Elder Justice Hotline is intended as an additional resource offered to connect individuals seeking information to the appropriate state agencies. The Elder Justice Hotline does not investigate reports of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Reports of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation received through the Hotline will be referred to the Department of Social Service, Elderly Protective Services Unit. Individuals may also report such complaints directly by calling 1-888-385-4225 (during regular business hours) or to Infoline at 211 after hours, weekend and state holidays. If calling from outside Connecticut, call Infoline at 211 or call 1-800-203-1234.

Additional information on how to report elder abuse can be found at [Social Work Services--Related Resources \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/socialwork/services-related-resources)

-Municipal Agent's Report

Alison has had a busy April.

She will be hosting a "What Tips Your Balance" event along with two nurses from the Aspetuck Health Services. There are currently twenty-five seniors signed up to attend. The topic is balance, fall risks, gait assessment and ways to be safe. The event will be held on Friday, May 20th, 11 AM to 12:30 AM, at the Easton Senior Center.

There is a new program starting in June – "Grow a Row" – where all gardeners can share their bounty with home-bound seniors. Tagging with the non-profit Stamford-based "Food Rescue", <http://www.foodrescue.us/>, volunteers will pick up donated food items, deliver to the food pantry at the ESC and then distributed to home-bound seniors in town. Alison is excited to partner with the FoodRescue.US organization.

Alison is looking to do another presentation regarding the topic on Rehab / Short / Long Term Stays. It is an important topic as many individuals do not know how to navigate until they are in this situation.

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

The next meeting of SWCCA is new week. Topics are the 2022 Grant Recipients and also reviewing the latest state and federal updates.

Open Discussion

The CFA members continued discussion on Elder Abuse and Elder Care news and initiatives. The topics of Rehab, and Hospice/Palliative were discussed. Although there are local and regional sites that offer these services for short or extended stays for Rehab, or more care, many individuals, be they seniors or family members, do not know about them nor until they need these services.

The next meeting of the CFA will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022, at the ESC from 5-6 PM. The notice will be sent in for proper posting.

The meeting concluded at 5:55 PM, on a motion by Anne Hughes, seconded by Nanette DeWester and approved.

Submitted by,

Commission for the Aging
L. Tasi