

Meeting Minutes
Commission on Aging
Rescheduled Regular Meeting
Easton Senior Center
February 4, 2014

Present: Katie Tressler, Municipal Agent/Senior Social Services, Alison Witherbee (new Municipal Agent), Margaret Sylvestri, Gail Gay, Phyllis Machledt, and Joel Peskay.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.
2. No minutes from December 12, were read. They will be read at the March meeting of the COA. (There was no January 2014, meeting of the COA.)

3. Old Business:

- a. A new alternate member has been nominated to the COA but has not yet been confirmed by the Selectmen. We anticipate that the new member will be at the March 2014 COA meeting. We still have room for one more full and one more alternate committee member and we will continue seeking an additional members. Joel agreed to contact the DTC to ask the status of their recent nomination.

4. New Business:

- a. **Municipal Agent's Report:** Katie's report(s) covered the months of December 2013 and January 2014. She continues to be involved with several Easton seniors experiencing severe health problems and with few personal or financial resources. Katie has also been providing assistance to Easton Seniors seeking financial assistance for utilities, etc.

Katie was pleased to announce that following her presentation (which included singing) to the Easton Lions Club, the Lions Club contributed \$2500 to the Carrie Shurman fund for 2014. **The COA wishes to thank the Lions Club for their very generous contribution to the welfare of Easton's seniors. Thank you!**

Katie has decided to retire and has submitted her resignation which will be effective as of February 14, 2014. Katie was kind enough to delay her leaving until a replacement was found. After interviewing several candidates, the position was offered to Alison Witherbee, MSW and she has accepted. Alison will begin as Easton's new municipal Agent on February 17, 2014.

Alison Witherbee was introduced to the COA and she talked about her previous and current work experiences and her aspirations for the MA

position. Katie plans to hold a tea at the Senior Center to introduce Alison to the seniors and to the staff. Alison will also introduce herself to Easton Seniors via the March newsletter. The COA will also try to get a picture and an announcement in the Courier for next week. Welcome aboard, Alison!

The Commission on Aging (COA) wishes to acknowledge its great appreciation for, and admiration of, Katie Tressler's journey as Easton's Municipal Agent. Katie's great personal warmth and sense of humor, her heartfelt caring, her extensive nursing experience, and her broad knowledge of senior issues have all, especially when combined with her energy and dedication, made her an exemplary and wonderful Municipal Agent and colleague.

Not only has the Town of Easton been gifted with the presence of the Tressler family, but Easton's seniors have been doubly blessed to have had Katie as their Municipal Agent. Katie, the COA thanks you and wishes you only the best of health, adventures and good fortune and, of course, happiness and contentment in your retirement.

- b. **SWACCA:** Due to illness, Phyllis Machledt was unable to attend the last SWACCA meeting. She did report however of the efforts she was aware of within SWCCA to address the computer clichés that are impacting data entry, applications and communications within the statewide IT ConneCtCare system.
 - c. **The** resignation of Paul Dana from the COA was announced by Joel. The COA wishes to thank Paul for his contributions.
 - d. Now that the COA has only four current members, what constitutes a quorum for us to be able to meet and/or vote? Joel will inquire of the town clerk.
 - e. **Emergency** crisis planning for Easton seniors was again discussed. Joel will ask for a copy of the town emergency plan so that we can provide seniors and other Easton residents with information about what to do in emergencies, what will be available and where, and how to access these services. Joel will try again this week to meet with Chief Candee on this matter.
 - f. **COA** is also unaware of what happened with the "neighborhood captain" idea that was being promoted last year. Joel Peskay will pursue that information with the town offices.
 - g. **Joel** will ask the Town Clerk for a list terms for the COA members, and ask if we are subject to rem limits.
 - h. **Gail** Gay volunteered to be secretary for the March 2014 meeting of the COA.
5. **Next COA Meeting:** On a date in March to be determined (probably on March17), 2014 at 5:00 PM.

5. **Adjourn.** Margaret Sylvestri moved to adjourn, seconded by Phyllis Machlett.
Meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joel Peskay, Chair, Commission on Aging

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CLERK

on calendar @ 98,40

ASST