

Meeting Minutes  
Commission for the Aging  
Town of Easton, CT

Monthly Meeting / special – Tuesday, December 8, 2020  
Meeting held at the Easton Senior Center

The meeting convened at 5:08 P.M. Present were Cheryl Constand, Linda Dollard, Anne Hughes, Karen Martin, Melinda O'Brien, Lisa Tasi and Alison Witherbee / Municipal Agent for the Aging – Social Services Director.

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting were approved by the members on a motion by Melinda O'Brien and seconded by Karen Martin.

2. Ongoing Business

A. MCS Fund Update

There was no new reported data.

B. Survey 2020

This topic was moved to the end of today's meeting for open discussion.

C. M.A. Outreach

The Senior Grocery Bag outreach project is continuing through the end of the month. CFA members have donated additional food items for the bags.

3. New Business

A. Municipal Agent's Report

Alison had a busy November with Medicare Open Enrollment (collaboration with CHOICES counselors) and Energy Assistance applications. The Senior Grocery Bags project has been well received by the recipients and they are grateful for this outreach. Alison is hosting an event, via ZOOM, tomorrow, and the topic is "How to Stay Active and Engaged during a Pandemic". The topic is how to stay focused and mentally engaged during this time period. Alison is also making sure seniors have connections to the services they need. Some Easton seniors have turned 100 years young and their milestones have been recognized. The Easton Garden Club has delivered poinsettia flowers to seniors. Contact and outreach are the key ingredients especially during the holiday season.

B. SWCCA Report

Alison has been attending ZOOM meetings with the SWCCA (advisory council) for updates and dealing with the most vulnerable seniors, hopefully getting COVID testing to them at home and any food insecurities.

C. Discussion

The CFA members signed holiday cards which Alison will be placing in the Senior Grocery Bags.

Anne Hughes supplied information cards from the Coalition for Abuse Prevention of the Elderly. The cards outline the topic of Elder Abuse & Neglect and provide a list of resources in Southwest Connecticut. Alison will distribute them.

A recap on the Survey 2020 results was discussed further, in particular to the section on Senior Housing. In the hypothetical question asked if senior housing were available in town, seniors would welcome some type of community. However, respondents to the survey indicated that they would move away from town for reasons such as to be closer to family or taxes / amenities. Due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty going forward with the overall economy, there may be a negative decrease in confidence for

senior housing demands. The senior population may be deferring the decision until they can have a little more clarity on their future. Additionally, the approach to help seniors who wish to age outside of an institutional setting is by achieving and integrating affordable housing and health services, which in tandem, require a desirable geographical setting and possibly changes in area zoning requirements.

#### 4. Next Meeting

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled to meet at the Easton Senior Center on Monday, February 1, 2021 from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. There is no meeting in January 2021. Pending Covid-19 restrictions, the February meeting may need to be held via ZOOM. Determination will be made at that time. The Agenda will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for proper posting. The 2021 meeting schedule has already been submitted to the Town Clerk's office.

#### 5. Adjourn

Melinda O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Martin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:20 PM.

Submitted by,  
Commission for the Aging  
L. Tasi