

Meeting Minutes
TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
Commission for the Aging
Special Meeting
Easton Senior Center
Tuesday, June 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM. Present were Gail V. Gay, Phyllis Machledt, Joel Peskay, Margaret Silvestri, Lisa Tasi and new Alternate Members Karen Martin and Mary Pajonas. Linda Dollard and Alison Witherbee / Municipal Agent-Senior Social Services were excused and not present.

1. The minutes of the Tuesday, May 3rd special meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved on a motion by Gail V. Gay and seconded by Phyllis Machledt.
2. Unfinished Business
 - a. MCS Fund
Status is same on the MCS fund. CFA members are awaiting a fiscal update from the new comptroller and will maintain communication during summer break.
3. New Business
 - a. Two Difficult MA cases
Joel updated the members on his discussion with Alison regarding two cases of senior welfare checks. The town police and EMS were involved with the incidents as health concerns and hoarding issues were evident in the scenarios. The CFA members discussed the problematic settings and how these topics can be brought to attention. A proposal for meeting with civic teams as well as a presentation/workshop will be addressed. Members also suggested contacting other municipal sites to inquire on their programs. Ongoing communication will take place with Alison, Joel and local departments.
 - b. Update on Senator Chris Murphy's Proposed Bill for Tax Credit to Family Caregivers
Alison had recently met with Senator Murphy's outreach liaison to discuss the introduction of the "Social Security Caregiver Credit Act". This act would create a SS credit and provide a modest retirement compensation to individuals who have to leave the workforce or reduce their employment hours in order to care for a loved one. A possible upcoming event to further explore this proposed bill will be underway. <http://westfaironline.com/78271/senator-murphy-proposes-tax-credit-for-unpaid-caregivers/>
 - c. Municipal Agent's Report
Alison Witherbee recently hosted seminars for Medicare Savings Program and has scheduled two dates for Medicare Open Enrollment. She is communication with the

American Legion Easton Post 160 concerning information related to Veterans. She had attended training for a program launched by the Veteran's Affairs which will provide supports and services. During the summer she is coordinating and planning other workshops and presentations, scheduled for the Fall season. Alison continues to provide outreach and support to the local senior sector.

d. SCWAA Report

Phyllis Machledt (SWCCA representative) reported that the agency's next meeting is scheduled for June 11th. CT State budget cuts are impacting aid and programming which are supported through SWCCA. There are some ideas and presentations which were done locally addressing the aging population in the county. Some of the topics addressed – 'end of life', 'Alzheimer's' and "Planning and Probate". SCWAA is still hearing about telephone and email scams, especially targeting elderly population. (Southwestern CT Agency on Aging - <http://www.swcaa.org>).

e. M.A. Job Description

Alison and Joel are reviewing the current job description and how the duties have evolved since the inception of the position. Commentary and additions need to be presented to the Selectman for further implementation.

f. CFA Meeting Date Change for September meeting

The next CFA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6th, 2016. The CFA members are in agreement for the change of meeting date. As the meeting will convene on Tuesday (instead of the first Monday of the month), this monthly meeting will be known as a "Special Meeting".

g. Other items

CFA members discussed various topics on senior issues, outreach as well as an article about "Slow Medicine" founder Dr. Dennis McCullough, who recently passed.

4. Next meeting

The Commission will be on summer hiatus until September. The next meeting, "Special Meeting", will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2016

5. Adjourn:

Margaret Silvestri moved to adjourn the meeting, Joel Peskay seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:07 PM.

Submitted by,
Lisa V. Tasi, Secretary, Commission for the Aging