

Meeting Minutes
TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT
Commission for the Aging
Special Meeting
Easton Senior Center
Tuesday, December 6th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM. Present were Gail V. Gay, Phyllis Machledt, Karen Martin, Joel Peskay, Margaret Silvestri, Lisa Tasi, and Alison Witherbee / Municipal Agent-Senior Social Services. Linda Dollard and Mary Pajonas were not present.

The minutes of the November 1st special meeting was reviewed and approved on a motion by Joel Peskay and seconded by Margaret Silvestri.

1. Unfinished Business

a. MCS Fund

No financial report / update were provided at this meeting. A 4th quarter 2016 recap is planned to be provided at the next meeting.

2. New Business

a. Follow-up to the ESC November 17th Thanksgiving Luncheon

Alison gave a thank you to all CFA members for their baking of the pumpkin loaves for the luncheon. The breads, along with small raffle items, were greatly appreciated by the attendees. The luncheon was well attended and all had a nice time.

b. Recent Donation from the Easton Lions Club

Alison informed the members that the Easton Lions Club donated \$2,000 to the MCS Fund.

c. Teen Tech Project for Seniors, second follow-up

The event was quite successful with 12 seniors attending to receive technological information and assistance from smart phones to computers. This was a service project created by a JBHS student who brought along schoolmates to assist with one on one education. As this community outreach project was well received, there may be a plan to do another volunteer technical event in the spring/summer.

d. Medicare Open Enrollment, second update

The second session took place on November 15th. Many seniors had last minute questions with regards to the open enrollment. The information session was coordinated with CHOICES counselors (Connecticut's program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling, Eligibility Screening.)
<http://www.ct.gov/agingservices/cwp/view.asp?a=2511&q=313032>

e. Municipal Agent's Report

Alison had a busy November month with many events. The ESC Thanksgiving luncheon served over 70 attendees and 14 Thanksgiving baskets were delivered by Alison, Pam Healey and another volunteer to homebound seniors. The second Medicare Open Enrollment session held on November 15th also attracted seniors

with additional questions on enrollment options. Alison is planning to conduct a separate event next year for those seniors who will be new to Medicare to provide greater understanding on the topic. The Teen Tech volunteer project event was quite successful in senior outreach and education. Another similar workshop will be planned for next spring/summer. On December 9th, Alison will be ringing the Salvation Army's kettle bell at the Westport Stop & Shop. Easton is part of the organization's southern New England sector based in Bridgeport. The traditional red kettle is an integral part of the Christmas scene, with millions of dollars being donated each year to aid needy families, seniors, and the homeless.
<http://ctri.salvationarmy.org/SNE/Bridgeport> .

f. SWCCA Report

Phyllis Machledt (SWCCA representative) reported that the main topic discussed at the November 9th meeting concerned the Nutritional programs offered to seniors and funding. Congress will be making federal funding decisions which may impact the nationwide Meals on Wheels program. The next meeting will be on December 14th. SWCCA meets the second Wednesday of the month.
(Southwestern CT Agency on Aging - <http://www.swcaa.org>).

g. Other items

Alison is exploring the HomeFront program, a community-based, volunteer-driven home repair program that provides free repairs to low-income homeowners, thus enabling them to remain in their homes with an improved quality of life.
<http://www.homefrontprogram.org/> . There is an application which lists mandatory requirements and income guidelines for the selection process. Alison has an individual in mind that may benefit from this service, if selected, for CY2017. "HomeFront Day" is held the first Saturday in May annually.

Lisa Tasi sent a photo to all CFA members of the Autumn Pumpkin Breads that she baked for the Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon for promotional use by Alison for media updates.

CFA members discussed the types of community outreach which is done by the local religious organizations.

3. Next meeting

There will be no January 2017 meeting. The Commission's next meeting, "Special Meeting", will be held on Tuesday, February 7th, 2017.

4. Adjourn:

Phyllis Machledt moved to adjourn the meeting, Gail V. Gay seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved and agreed upon at 6:05 PM.

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