

**COMMISSION ON AGING AND DISABLED
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2020**

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2020 JAN 29 PM 1:42


Town Clerk

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Brecher
Kathy Sobieski
Mary Udice
Chylene Pender
Maureen Lynch
Sandy Nafis

MEMBERS ABSENT

Terri Lapenta-Duffek

STAFF

Dianne Stone
Jaime Trevethan
Gail Whitney

TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS ABSENT

Gail Budrejko
Carol Anest

I. CALL TO ORDER

Karen Brecher called the Commission on Aging and Disabled meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Town Council liaisons were not present as they were at a special meeting of the Town Council and touring the Anna Reynolds Elementary School.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019

The Commissioners approved the minutes of December 4, 2019.

V. STAFF REPORT

Dianne reported that the Center had a good December with events such as the American History lecture series, movie on the big screen, preschool holiday singalong, health and insurance literacy, and Veterans's Coffee Hour which is attended by about a dozen people and is very meaningful to the attendees. The holiday social and concert scheduled for December 3rd was postponed due to the weather and was held yesterday with 86 people in attendance. Students from Newington High School's National Honor Society needed to work on their community hours and held a talent show on December 27th and they were very talented. Upcoming programs include a New Year's Trivia Contest, hands-on sculpture demo, new routines and habit program, winter gardening. The winter gardening program is a pilot program on growing your own lettuce and herbs; people will be responsible for tending to their own plants during the winter. The Garden Club will be holding a meeting to recruit volunteers; volunteers do not need to be there on a daily basis to tend to the garden, but there are certain times that more people are needed for the heavy work. Dianne stated that this facility, the Senior Center, is a big asset and that working together with the National

Honor Society is one way to expose people to the Center. The Annual student art show is normally held on the third floor of the Town Hall; due to the construction this event will be held at the Senior Center. This event is usually a week long, but will be held over the weekend so that more people can attend. Dianne explained that it will be nice to develop a relationship with the Board of Education's art program so that student's art can be displayed at the Center. Relationships with CCSU have proven to be beneficial and will continue by collaborating with the school's gerontology program. CCSU interns will have an opportunity to become Matter of Balance leaders; they will work in pairs and will hold two programs each in Newington, Berlin, and Woodbury. The evidence based programs have been very successful at the Center and staff have only so much time to head up these programs. With the CCSU interns having this opportunity to become certified and learn how to lead these programs will be beneficial to the Center. CCSU staff from the older adult education program/scholars for life, are looking for space to hold some of their programs and will do so in the cafeteria and will provide a meal; this will happen in the early evening and is open to whomever would like to attend.

A. Door Counters

Dianne said the count was 6,034 for the month of December which is down about 13% from last year, but the Center was closed due to the weather, and the holidays took place mid-week.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Self-Assessment

Dianne reported that the Center continues to work on this and explained that last year the focus was on increasing evidence based programs which has been very successful. This year the focus will be on bringing joy to the programs that are in place, and future programs that will make the Center a place to come and have fun.

B. Purchase Requests

There were no Purchase Requests at this time.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Regarding Campaign Activity in the Senior and Disabled Center

Dianne explained that the Town has an administrative letter that states no campaign literature or paraphernalia is allowed in Town facilities. The Center took it a step further and said that no campaigning of any kind can take place at the Center. Dianne has nothing in writing explaining this and has just asked people not to campaign in the building. People come to the Center to socialize and for the services and do not want to be harassed while they are in the building. There have been, and may continue to be, people who are members of the Center who might be a candidate; these people will be informed that once they declare their candidacy they cannot campaign in the Center. Dianne would like something in writing to share with both parties so that during the campaign season it is clear what they can and cannot do. The Commission suggested holding a bipartisan forum when there is an election for one day only that candidates can come to the Center. Dianne will draft something and share it with the Commission at the February meeting.

B. Election of Officers

The Commission on Aging and Disabled is comprised of nine individuals; at this time there are seven individuals on the Commission. Jerilyn Nagel has officially resigned. Kathy suggested a message be sent to the Republican Town Committee Chairperson about the two vacancies. Mary and Sandy both commented that the two people who are presently Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (Karen and Maureen) are doing an excellent job. **MOTION: Sandy Nafis made a motion to table Election of Officers until the two vacancies are filled, Mary Udice seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.**

VIII. AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Move Policy Regarding Campaign Activity in Senior and Disabled Center, and Election of Officers under Old Business, add Lyft post survey to Old Business, and add Changes to SNAP as a new agenda item under Public Participation.

Dianne reported that AARP has officially awarded the fitness park to the Town of Newington and that the Town Council passed this request. It should be installed in May at Mill Pond. AARP also provided grant money for outdoor game tables at Mill Pond. Part of the funding will be used with the Senior Center and Parks and Recreation to develop programs for the fitness park. This is a big win for Newington.

Kathy asked about the Lyft program. Jaime and Dianne mailed out a survey to people who have used the service. An invitation, along with two vouchers and movie passes, were sent out to people who have not used the Lyft service. Of the three sites that were part of this Lyft pilot program, 230 people were enrolled and 147 of the 230 came from Newington. The money given to the Center from this Lyft pilot program has not been completely spent.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

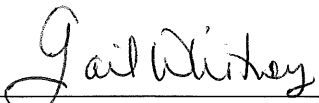
There was no Public Participation.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Sandy Nafis made a motion to adjourn, Kathy Sobieski seconded the motion, and the monthly meeting of the Commission on Aging and Disabled adjourned at 6:48 PM with a 65-0 vote.

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging and Disabled is Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



 Gail Whitney, Commission Clerk