

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023
SENIOR CENTER AND ZOOM

Minutes

Present: Chairperson Dr. Eric Rosenberg, Vice Chairperson Sue Greeno, Commission members: Shelly Grendzinski, Carol McLaughlin and Bonnie Berkovich
Also in attendance: Town Council member Alison Walck, Senior Services Coordinator Jo Ann Ewing, Beth Angel, Cindy Craig and Cathy Megan (via Zoom)

Call to Order

Dr. Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 4:08pm.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Berkovich, seconded by Ms. Grendzinski to adopt the agenda. Approved (5-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2023 by Ms. Greeno, seconded by Ms. Berkovich. Approved (5-0).

A motion was made to approve the special meeting minutes of April 27, 2023 by Ms. Greeno, seconded by Ms. McLaughlin. Approved (5-0)

Public Comment

Beth Angel of 34 Country Lane expressed that she was happy to be able to attend the meeting in person.

Announcements from Chair

Dr. Rosenberg notified the commission that he is still waiting for an update from Tonya Moore, Chairperson of the Commission on Aging in Marlborough, in regards to a future round table meeting of other local COA's. The Commission has been continuing to support the Senior Center budget request with a letter written by Dr. Rosenberg and Ms. Sali Cosford Parker to the Rivereast News Bulletin. Dr. Rosenberg also made a public comment at the last Town Council meeting to express the importance of the needs of the town's older citizens.

Senior Services Report

Ms. Ewing was happy to announce that she has received positive feedback from the recently added insert to the Belltown Senior Newsletter that features Town of East Hampton updates and activities open to older adults that are hosted by other Town departments. She also announced planning has begun for community gardens located at the Cranberry Bog and the Food Bank. Any food harvested from the gardens will be donated to the bank. She shared that the Senior Center is still dealing with inadequate staff. The request that had been made to the Board of Finance, to increase staffing from a part-time position to a full-time position was denied. The hiring process has begun for two part-time Activity Assistant positions that are vacant. She also reported that her assistant recently experienced an injury and will be out for a lengthy time. She will be receiving some help from other departments but is also looking for volunteers to fill in when in need. She also shared there will be an intern, who will be volunteering in September. Ms. Ewing conducted presentations at Bellwood Court and Chatham Acres on programs that are available at the Senior Center.

Old Business

The Executive Director of UR Community Cares responded to a list of criteria from a town risk manager consultant by writing that all of the recommended insurance is in place to protect the town and volunteers. The next step is to fundraise for participants. Members discussed the possibility of "crowdsourcing" and promoting the

program at Community events, such as Old Home Days, and extensively networking for support from organizations, businesses, and the public.

Reports from Housing, Transportation and Health & Wellness Sub-Committees.

Housing: Dr. Rosenberg attended the last Planning and Zoning meeting, where he expressed his appreciation to Jeremy Decarli, Planning and Zoning Official for his efforts on the Accessory Dwelling Unit and renovations needed for the public safety presentation.

Transportation: Dr. Rosenberg wrote a letter in support of the River Valley Transit's application for grant assistance. Ms. Ewing also submitted an application for a grant which would help fund transportation for older citizens in need.

Health & Wellness: Ms. Greeno reported the Town departments are continuing to coordinate promotion of activities and programs that benefit seniors. Town management has been very supportive of improving community awareness of the needs for older individuals. The meetings will continue on a monthly basis.

Housing Authority Report: Ms. Grendzinski reported that the Director of Housing Authority and the Resident Service Coordinator have been a positive asset to the community.

Budget: Dr. Rosenberg reported there is a balance of \$370.07 left in the annual budget. Ms. Greeno made a motion to donate \$100 to UCC, to assist in the commencement of the program and spend the remainder of funds to order pens for community outreach. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Approved (5-0)

Mailing and Contact List: Dr. Rosenberg has continued to work with Jeff Jylkka, Finance Director to generate a complete contact list of older adults.

Alternate members of COA: Dr Rosenberg announced there are several people interested in becoming both members and alternative members. The Town Council has not yet voted on two applicants for full and alternate member slots. At the end of the discussion, Ms. Greeno submitted her letter of resignation from the Commission on Aging, effective immediately. Dr. Rosenberg commended her for her 14 years of dedicated service.

New Business

Ms. McLaughlin presented COA name tags to members.

Public Comment

Beth Angel of 34 Country Lane spoke about the positive experiences she's had with the UCC as a recipient. She suggested making presentations at local clubs or at the Senior Center to promote the program. She also suggested getting teachers and young people involved. Ms. Angel expressed an interest in volunteering her time to help. She also shared that the COA should organize a way to help older citizens to attend the town's budget and council meetings to be able to show support.

Cindy Craig of 3 Candlewood Drive spoke about "crowdfunding" and thinks it would be a successful avenue to raise funds for the COA's projects. She also commented that the letter from Ms. Ewing which had been removed from the Belltown Senior News should be included in future newsletters.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Maynard
Recording Clerk

