

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Robert Atherton, Commission members, Eric Rosenberg, Bonnie Berkovich, Mariann Mankowski and Senior Center Director JoAnn Ewing.

Call to Order

Chairperson Atherton called the meeting to order at 4:010 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Mankowski, seconded by Dr. Rosenberg, to adopt the agenda as written. Voted (4-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Rosenberg, seconded by Ms. Berkovich, to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2020. Voted (4-0)

Public Comment

None

Senior Services Report

Ms. Ewing discussed zoom programming, noting another writer's group has been added, per request of residents. The letter writing/pen pal program was started this week. It was noted that 79 people have availed themselves of the on-line services being offered by the senior center. It was noted that this is approximately 1/3 of the participation from a year ago, pre-Covid -19. Ms. Mankowski asked what and how are we trying to reach out to those without the technology. Ms. Ewing said initially the pen pal group was identified for outreach and when called many of the identified folks declined the offer. The best the staff can do is to keep trying other programs that might catch their interest. Ms. Berkovich thanked Dr. Rosenberg for his dynamic talk at the Lunch Bunch group. Dr. Rosenberg noted he was pleased with the interaction and questions that were asked. Ms. Ewing reported she and staff are developing a plan for National Senior Center month in September.

Old Business

Covid Up-date: Nothing new to report. Senior Center is still closed. Services are being provided remotely.

NCOA Aging Mastery Program: Chairperson Atherton said there had not been any follow through from the people who requested to meet with COA. Eric and Cookie had not received their kits. Eric said he would call to find out what happened to the kits.

Emergency Response Plan: Ms. Ewing reported Emergency Management contacted staff regarding at risk folks. Staff provided that but Ms. Ewing wondered if Everbridge/ Alert Now was being used for that purpose as well. In light of the likelihood of more storms this year, it would be positive to review the plan in place now and make recommendations as needed to provide better service to the residents.

Chairperson Atherton will follow-up with the Town Manager and Fire Marshal, Richard Klotzbier to address the current state of process. COA would like to develop a resource to be posted on website of what to do in an emergency.

Ice Cream Social:

Chairperson Atherton gave a short review of how the COA sponsored an Ice Cream Social in the past. He proposed they offer a small scoop coupon for folks to redeem at the local shop, Chatham Creamery. The group will have a planning session via conf. call Thursday, August 20 at 4pm. Jo Ann will send out the call # via email.

New Business:

Ms. Greeno left the following announcement to share. Aug. 18 4:00pm – 5:00pm Medicare Advocacy is co-sponsoring a Town Hall with Joe Courtney. Go to Medicare Advocacy website for sign-up information.

Ms. Mankowski asked if the COA would be interested in helping Older Adults through the voting process for this year's presidential election. It seems people may need a little extra help with the entire process; i.e. how to vote 2020, how to get absentee ballot, dates, mail-in vote., getting to the polls, etc. Dr. Rosenberg agreed to the importance of this project. It was noted that it is important to be non-partisan. Also, Dr. Rosenberg mentioned the League of Women Voter's may have the educational resources needed to share. When asked if the COA should do this Dr. Rosenberg stated 'We are advocates for Older Adults in our Town. This is an important right of the citizens including Older Adults that we should be helping to promote.' Ms. Mankowski will follow up with this project.

Housing Authority Report:

No update.

Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Mankowski, second by Dr. Rosenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm. Voted (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Ewing