

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024
SENIOR CENTER

Minutes

Present: Chairperson Eric Rosenberg, Vice Chairperson Cindy Craig, Commission members, Kim Crabbe, Mariann Mankowski, Bonnie Berkovich, Shelley Grendzinski, and Carol McLaughlin. Alternate members, Beth Angel and Kathy Megan.

Also in attendance: Town Council member Jack Solomon and Senior Services Director JoAnn Ewing

Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

Dr. Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as written by Ms. Craig, 2nd by Ms. Crabbe. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the December 14, 2023 minutes with the correction that Ms. Crabbe was in attendance for the meeting and the commission approved the proposed meeting dates of 2024, was made by Ms. Crabbe, 2nd by Ms. Craig. (Voted 7-0)

Public Comment

None.

Announcements from the Chair

Dr. Rosenberg informed members that it has been determined that the Commission on Aging historically did not make proper motions to create Subcommittees. Therefore, as long as fewer members than a quorum meet, there is no need to post future agendas and minutes for those meetings. Members are not allowed to make any motions during those meetings. Instead, they will need to present the agreed upon subject to the Commission, in order for a motion to be made. Subcommittees will now be described as working groups.

Senior Services Report

Ms. Ewing reported that the Center's food service, Estuary, has agreed to hire a fifteen (15) hour position for the kitchen and will provide a substitute if the employee is out sick or on vacation. Ms. Ewing is continuing to help residents with energy assistance and expressed her concerns that some will go without funding because of budget restraints. COA members asked Dr Rosenberg to write a letter to state politicians and leaders informing them of the severity and need for more funds. Members also agreed to write personal letters. Ms. Ewing presented her staffing concerns to the Town's Tri-Board. She is currently working on the Senior Center's budget request which includes funds for a full-time position and another part-time van driver. The Center will be hosting an informational zoom meeting on the Shared Clean Energy program presented by Eversource. This meeting will be open to the public and on Zoom, at 11 a.m. on February 20, 2024.

Old Business

Reports from Housing, Transportation and Health & Wellness Working Groups

Housing: Ms. Craig shared that the group has been focusing on ways for residents to stay at home independently as they age. They are planning a fair where vendors will offer improvements and adaptations that can be done that will allow them to stay in their homes for a longer period of time. The working group will also work on affordable housing for older adults.

Transportation: Ms. Berkovich reported that she and Ms. Ewing are continuing to work on improving transportation. A new micro transit will be available in April. Other improvements include adding additional sidewalks, which was suggested on the Senior Survey. Ms. Ewing announced the state has just approved funding for another transportation van.

Health and Wellness: Ms. Mankowski informed commission members that the group is continuing to work on plans to integrate enrichment opportunities for older adults to teach classes within the community. The group has been meeting with other town departments to gather ideas. Their focus has been on recruitment, networking, determining budgetary needs and a possible pilot program in the fall. Target date is still set for January 2025.

EHCC fundraising update: Ms. Crabbe reported that a total of \$12,700.00 has now been raised. Ms. Craig announced that Po's Rice and Spice has offered to run a fundraising event to benefit EHCC in March or April. Ms. Craig delivered tear-off pads to the Food Bank and the Ambulance Association. Dr. Rosenberg announced there are now twenty-one (21) volunteers, twenty (20) deed requests and thirty-one (31) deeds completed as of January 6, 2024. Ms. Angel is continuing to help people sign up.

Housing Authority: Ms. Grendzinski reported that she has inquired at the East Hampton Housing Authority about the snow removal around apartment back doors as a safety issue that the COA discussed at its December meeting. She has not heard back.

Budget: Incorporated into budget request discussion in New Business.

New Business

Ms. Crabbe discussed political leadership's increasing interest in addressing loneliness of older adults and shared early ideas for a conference or presentation. Dr. Rosenberg presented the 2025 budget draft that will be submitted to the Board of Finance. Members agreed with the total amount requested and discussed adjusting the itemized allowances.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Maynard
Recording Clerk