

Commission on Aging Meeting Notes
September 19th, 2022, 6:30pm via Zoom meeting

Present: Andrea Beebe, Stephanie Rowe, Debra Franceschini, George Noyes, Maureen Culhane, Tony Phillips, Karen Guadian, Joe Turnollo, Rian Malhotra

Members of the public: None

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm

New commissioner Joe Turnollo gave a brief background on his work experience and life in Ridgefield to the commission.

Stephanie Rowe discussed a partnership for memory cafe for the Alzheimer's and Dementia population. Planning is in the early stages. Ideas were to partner with Ridgefield Station, the Ridgefield Library and possibly the town support group run by Maria Victor Smith. Again in the very early stages. Joe mention some memory cafe information available in several town on the AARP website. He will send the info to Stephanie and she will keep us updated on next steps.

The Covid-19 foot-marker is ready for pick up. The Commission discussed possible dates for the memorial service and decided that a ceremony in March of 2023 would be appropriate recognizing the 2 year anniversary from the beginning of the pandemic.

Debra will work to update Senior Guide Booklet based on the changes and updates our high school intern made. Once that's complete, she can send out for pricing and obtain a quote for project from Squashs'

Maureen Culhane- No update on treasurers report.

Transportation card update- Rian and Debra will work together to finalize the information provided by Sheila prior to her resignation for printing business cards so seniors can keep them in their wallets, etc.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of going back to in person meetings. Although some were in favor, many felt that the zoom option better accommodates their work schedule and issues with driving at night. We will continue to hold zoom meeting until discussed otherwise. Meeting must be recorded and placed on town website for 45 days along with meeting notes.

Debra discussed the need for a development person to apply for grants as they come up. The commissioners who interested will discuss at next meeting.

Joe discussed reviewing of our mission and how we could improve it along with having a 1-5 year plan and look back to how the commission could be improved. Tony will send out a Google doc survey for all commissioners to add feedback.

Joe brought up a suggestion to partner with the SPIF group in town. Tony advised that the commission already participates in those discussions.

Joe mentioned that the next OWLS meeting at Founders Hall was Oct. 5th. He will try to work with the group to build a partnership.

The COA town website still needs updating. Tony no longer has access. Debra and Tony will work to gain access to make necessary changes.

George discussed refreshed programming for seniors regarding the most recent scams, identity theft, phishing and email security. Debra will work with RPD and the library to coordinate a date at the library. Use CT alerts to notify seniors of active incidents in town.

Tony discussed applying for a town grant. The Commission did not apply for the \$100 grant last year. He suggested that we apply for future town grants so we don't fall off the list of approvals.

Medicare Open Enrollment begins soon. Deb will work with Karen to make flyers that can be left at pharmacies, RVNA, Library etc. she will also post in HamletHub and Patch and Town website.

Debra made a motion to adjourn, Stephanie seconded.

Meeting adjourned 8:02pm

Video of meeting can be found at below link.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kORfh1JDn91KRGIGWE8BuhzGS4qtTbhtwPNXz_F0IWg/edit

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Franceschini

Commission on Aging Secretary Commission on Aging Meeting Notes

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Commission on Aging Secretary