

**Elderly Commission
Special meeting
September 17, 2019
9:30 am
Oxford Senior Center**

Present: Connie Koskelowski, Hank Rotzal, Joyce Niestemski, Larry Morgan, Pat Babbage, Betty Andrews

1 Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance

- Meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer at 9:30am

2. Amendments to the agenda: None

3. Audience of Citizens

- None

4 Review and Approval of Minutes...

- The June meeting minutes were reviewed

5 Correspondence:

- None

6 Municipal Agents Report:

- **June 2019**
 - Connecticut is proposing an asset test that will limit eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program to individuals with assets of \$7,560 or couples with assets of \$11,340. Connecticut is only one of the eight states that **does not** have an asset test. Prior to 2010 we had an asset test in place when we had CONNPACE the drug program for low-income residents. The 2011 Human Services Budget Implementation Act closed ConnPace. The new proposal aligns CT with the majority of other states by instituting an asset test equal to the federal minimum. The asset test will be effective July 1 2020 in order to avoid excessive administration costs. A human touch is necessary for questions, when an error is found and when a participant has special needs related to language or literacy. The time between application and enrollment could leave the individual at risk without the means to pay for medication and care. So if you receive a renewal form, please send it in promptly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 203-888-2090.
- **July 2019**
 - Last year, I wrote a Newsletter about opening up an online account with Social Security if you didn't have one. I just received a reminder email to review my account so I am reminding those who didn't open your personal account that you should do so. They have since added a second method to verify your identity each time you sign in to your account. This is in addition to your user name and password
 - Step 1 you must enter your username and password.
 - Step 2 you must enter the security code that they will send by text message or email depending on your choice. Now that we have instant access to your Social Security Statement at any time, remember you will no longer receive a statement in the mail like we used to.
 - As I mentioned above, they will also email you an Annual Reminder to review your Social Security Statement. You can check your annual earnings if you are

still working, you can check your Benefit Statement, get a Benefit Verification letter if you need one, replacement information for a lost card and direct deposit information. Your statement also will help in planning your financial future concerning your social security. Go to www.ssa.gov to open an account or if you already have an account check it out at www.socialsecurity.gov/reviewyourstatement.

- **August 2019**

- Connecticut's Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) which is designed to help offset winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households is accepting applications for heat assistance beginning August 1, 2019. Winter Heat Assistance pays for a household's heating source such as oil, gas, electric, etc. The assistance does not always cover the entire heating season, Team, Inc. in Derby, CT is in charge of accepting applications for heat assistance in our area. Current income documentation is required for **everyone 18 or older** in your household as well as liquid assets for every household, such as savings, checking accounts, bonds, stocks, annuities, IRA's, etc. If you are interested in this program, call Team, Inc. for more information at 203-736-5420

- **September 2019**

- One of the biggest complaints that I hear seniors talking about is receiving harassing calls not only on your regular telephone but now on our cell phones too. The Federal Communications Commission has given phone companies the right to block these calls that target billions including seniors. Your phone company does not have to do anything but they can. Some people like to harass scammers' but that's risky. These people are pros and are trying to get information from you. Scammers also use dialing systems that track the length of conversation. Don't pick up unless you know who is calling. If you accidentally pick up and you realize it is a scammer, **just hang up**.
- Just a reminder: Renter's Rebate Program ends September 15.

- **October 2019**

- October means "**Open Enrollment**" for seniors and choosing an insurance Medicare plan. Open enrollment is October 15th thru December 8th. Some seniors are just turning 65 and are going on Medicare. Other seniors have a plan all picked out but may not be completely sure. Then there are those seniors that are not completely satisfied with the insurance plan that they have. Now, during open enrollment, is the time to do something about it or at least look into the changes in insurance that will take place during 2019-2020. We all know that there are changes every year and after learning what these changes are you can make an intellectual decision and decide which policy is the best for you and/or your spouse. Do you have any questions concerning Medicare Supplement Plan or a Medigap plan? Perhaps, you would like to change your Part D drug plan. These are all questions for our insurance specialist that we have invited to our Senior Center. John Somero is coming back and will be here Wednesday, October 9th, 2019 at 11:00. Everyone is welcome and bring your questions.

Director's Report:

- **June 2019**

- As of June 4th we have 1052 members. We had 1909 event sign-ins during the month of June
- **June trips**
 - motor coach-Cape NJ-15 travelers
 - Motor coach-Mohegan Sun-this trip was cancelled
 - motor coach-MGM casino-Springfield, MA-52- profit \$511.141
- Senior Center Bus- White Flower Farm- 18 members

- Senior Center bus- Thimble Island Cruise-
- **June Events**
 - I spy game and presentation-10 members
 - Jewelry Making Class-24 members
 - Nutrition Program “Eye can see clearly-18 members
 - Dr Jess-Posiatrist-19 members
 - Father’s Day lunch-50 members
 - Bring on Summer Luncheon-73 members-quilt Raffle #123.00
 - Bingo- 46 members
 - Foot Clinics 21 members
 - TEAM lunches- two days-35 members
 - Harpist Performance-37 members
 - Joan’s lunch- 50 members
 - Hearing screenings 3 members
 - Sleep wellness presentation -13 members
 - Massages- 7 massages
- **Vehicles**
 - We transported 185 people, 12 of which were wheelchair bound. We completed 180 trips were medical, 44 to the center, 5 shopping, 4 recreational, 2 personal, and 2 vehicle maintenance. The number of individual people who we transported was 1`75 over this fiscal year. That is an increase of 54 people over las fiscal year.
- **Facility updates**
 - Brian Nesteriak, the town engineer me to meet with me about the water in the sump well problem on June 17th. He took copies of service reports, my notes and survey drawings. He didn’t open the cover, but said he would return to do that.
- **Other business**
 - the annual report was submitted to Town Hall
- **July 2019**
 - As of July 31st we have 1096 members. We had 2043 event sign-ins during the month of June
- **July trips**
 - motor coach-Westchester Theater- On Your Feet-51 travelers
 - that’s Amore, Lobster Bash Kingston, RI 46 travelers
 - Mohegan Sun-50 travelers
 - Lenny & Joe’s Restaurant-19 members w/1 wheelchair
 - Port Jefferson Ferry to Port Jefferson, NY-21 members
- **July Events**
 - lunch and Learn-30 members
 - Cannabis and Seniors- 38 members
 - Bingo- 46 members
 - Foot clinics-21 members
 - TEAM lunches-two days 24 members
 - Hearing screening- 1 members
 - Massages-only 2 massages were scheduled this month
 - Red Cross Blood Drive-Saturday July 27
 - Computer Class was held at the Library. The first in a series made possible by a Grant. They will continue on scheduled Wednesdays and Saturdays. We have started to offer a new craft called “A stitch in time” and a separate Craft

Class coordinated by June Maciolek. They will be held on a twice a month basis each

- **Vehicles**

- We transported 194 people, 15 of which were wheelchair bound. We completed 194 trips, 41 trips were medical, 43 to the center, 4 shopping, 3 recreational, 4 personal, and 0 vehicle maintenance.

- **Facility updates**

- Bryan Nesterial did return to take a look in the sump well and will find a company to give him an estimate for repair
- Pat will start to get bids for the ceiling repair on the patio. It's really peeling badly.
- Phil Ercoli purchased the Skittles Game for \$100.00 which was deposited into our Fund raising account. It was never used by the members and was just taking up space. Hopefully, his family will enjoy it.

- **August 2019**

- As of
- September 12 we have 1117 members. We had 2122 event sign-ins during the month of August

- **August trips**

- motor Coach-Westchester Theater Mambo Italiano-53 travelers
- Motor Coach-River Rose Cruise-45 travelers
- Mohegan Sun-36 travelers
- Senior Center Bus-maritime Aquarium-11 members
- Senior Center Buss-Goodspeed, Because of Winn Dixie-15 members

- **August Events**

- Grandparents Day-65 members and children
- Bingo 47 members
- Foot Clinics-12 members- Held only 1 day this month
- AARP Drivers safety class- 38 members
- TEAM lunches – 2 days- 23 members- 1 day was cancelled by TEAM
- Hearing screenings-5 members
- Luau Luncheon-90 members
- Massages-only 1 massage was scheduled this month
- Your Medicare Hospice Benefit presentation-18 members
- Neurovation Center Presentation-10 members

- **Vehicles**

We transported 150 people, 18 of which were wheelchair bound. We completed 170 trips, 27 were medical, 33 to the center, 6 shopping, 3 recreational, 12 personal, and 2 vehicle maintenance.

Bus #1 needed an inspection for registration renewal and it needed a rear inner tire repair and a LED lamp replacement. It also had an oil change. Total cost for the inspection, tire and lamp was \$306-47.

- **Facility updates**

- Heritage Water came for their annual inspection

9.

Old business:

- A new coffee pot was purchased. It will be kept in the kitchen- warmers will be purchased to keep in the hall. It will be easier to control the use of making of the pot coffee,

- Cleanliness- The center is not clean. It needs to be better than it is. The bathrooms and kitchen need to be done a lot better.
- Refrigerator in the kitchen getting louder and louder. Needs to be checked out. Pat will call to see if it needs to be fixed.
- Pound Fitness & Tai Chi are not drawing a lot of people. It will be looked at for the future.
- Received to keyboard for music program
- The flooding issue because of the pump has been looked at and will be fixed. The tow is making the decision on this
- The patio ceiling needs to be painted as it is peeling. We are getting prices.

10. **New Business:**

- The commission voted to have Pat buy 2 laptops for use outside the building. They will help out tremendously.
- Security of the building was discussed and will continue to be looked at. We feel safe at the moment.

11. **Other Business:** None

12. **Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned at 11:20am with a motion by Hank Rotzal and a second by Connie Koskelowski. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen O'Connell

Kathleen O'Connell
Clerk

19 SEP 25 PM 1:50
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Magda H. West
TOWN CLERK