

Elderly Commission
January 12, 2021
Oxford Senior Center

Present: Sue Descheen, Hank Rotzal, Joyce Niestemski, Larry Morgan, Rae Bailey
Absent: Heather Haney

- 1 **Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance** Meeting was called to order at by chairperson Joyce Niestemski with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer at 9:30am
2. **Amendments to the agenda:** None
3. **Audience of Citizens**
- 4 **Review and Approval of Minutes:**
 - Motion made by Sue Descheen and a second by Rae Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5 **Correspondence:** None
- 6 **Municipal Agents Report:**
 - Good bye 2020. In my mind, I am saying good riddance and take the pandemic with you. We all want to remember the good things about 2020 and I'm sure that we all have something good that happened to us this past year. We can gift wrap those precious memories in our hearts and keep them safe. Here's to a better year in 2021 eradicating the pandemic! Good bye to Covid-19, good bye to quarantines, goodbye to no toilet paper.
 - First I would like to remind everyone that this month, you should receive your Cost of Living Adjustment for 2021 (COLA), which is 1.3 per cent this year. This increase began in December 2020 and is payable in your January Social Security Check. It isn't much but we'll take it!
 - Remember that saying, "in one hand and out the other," you received an increase in Social Security check, but other Federal Premiums will also increase Medicare A is \$1484 in 2021. The part A deductible applies for each benefit period. A benefit period begins at hospital admission and ends when you have been out of the hospital or skilled nursing facility four 60 consecutive days. So, a beneficiary may have multiple benefit periods requiring payment of your Part A deductive multiple times in a single year.
 - Now on to Medicare Part B, which is your Medical Insurance that pays for doctors, preventive benefits, hospital outpatient surgery and care, ambulance services, outpatient mental health services, durable medical equipment. There is a monthly premium for Part B which automatically is deducted from your social security check. For 2021, most beneficiaries will pay \$148.50 month for their Part B deductible. Certain individuals pay more because they are subject to income related monthly adjustment amounts (IRMAA) rules. If your modified adjusted gross income on their 2019 tax returns was more than \$88,000 per individual or \$176,000 for a couple, then you will pay a higher monthly amount. Individual amounts \$88,000-\$110,000 will generally pay 80% of the approved cost of care for services.
 - So in order to stay ahead of the game, we all must stay healthy and that's exactly what we all plan to do in 2021.

- The January newsletter was mailed out as a courtesy to all 2020 members, with a reminder that yearly dues for 2021 is now due. We have been receiving many membership renewals, both by mail and in person, total membership deposits thus far total \$1815.00
- We were recently notified of the closing of the Westchester Dinner Theater in Elmsford, New York. The center had a motor coach trip planned for April 2020, but due to Covid-19 the trip was cancelled. We were assured by theater management that the show would be rescheduled to a later date or our monies refunded. Unfortunately, neither happened and the theater is going out of business. Our Finance Director Jim Hliva, has advised me to issue full refunds to all of our members who have been waiting so patiently. Refunds totaled \$2,655.00 and Town Council will now become involved in an attempt to obtain reimbursement from the theater.
- Fox Pest Control of Oxford had to be called in to deal with a mouse problem, as we found quite a few droppings on the kitchen counters. No droppings have been seen since they rebaited all traps.
- We received \$1300.00 in recent donations to the senior center, \$1,000.00 donation from the Newtown Savings Bank of Oxford, \$200.00, donation from the Jane D. Weiss family Foundation and \$100.00 donation from Sandy and David brown of Oxford. The Newtown Savings Bank donation was originally designated to purchase several new iPads for the Oxford Senior Center. These devices would be offered to members who wish to partake in zoom programs, but do not have devices to access the programs. The interested individuals would be allowed to borrow the devices by entering their name in a lottery type drawing, The ipads would be returned at the end of this pandemic and always remain the property of the senior center they would later be used for many other programs.
- The outdoor Christmas caroling event on December 22nd was a great success. The weather was beautiful and all who attended (including our Selectman) were extremely grateful for this fun time. 100 meals were given out, compliments of the center. Everyone remained safe and continue to stay healthy. We also raised \$99.30 for the quilt raffle that was held at this event. This money goes back to our wonderful quilters to purchase more supplies as needed.
- All virtual zoom classes and programs continue to service a huge number of members on a weekly basis. Our two newest virtual classes, Strength and Balance with Bobbie offered every Wednesday and Ballroom Dancing with George Maderski, offered every other Friday, are also doing quite well, we strive to keep the connections going with our many members who cannot yet attend in person.
- All other in house classes and programs are doing extremely well.
- The Quilting Guild has resumed their meetings in the main room every Friday at 11:00.
- The Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled Saturday January 2nd had 52 appointments filled. Our custodian Johnny remained at the center for the duration of the drive. The next drive is scheduled for Saturday, February 27th.
- On December 14th Massachusetts Fire Technologies performed their semi- annual kitchen fire suppression inspection and annual inspection of all extinguishers- total cost \$182.80.
- We hope to once again offer the AARP tax assistance program beginning Wednesday February 3rd and ending Wednesday April 7th. The town has agreed to allow us this opportunity, provided the Covid cases are at a safe level before this program begins. We will not schedule appointments until the end of the month, to ensure the safety of all. The center will be closed during the tax preparation appointments and will reopen in the afternoon, after proper cleaning has been done. Also. One Wednesday every month will be designated for Oxford residents only, just as we have always done in the past.

- A Panama/Costa Rica cruise from NY is in the works for November 6-21, 2022. More information on this trip will be provided at next month's meeting.
- Joanne Jelenik is overseeing the center during my absence this week and I am very grateful to her for allowing me the chance take a much needed break. I know the center is in good hands and I can breathe easy knowing she's there.
- Senior drivers Lance Kruger and Joe Bongiorno both hope to return to work as soon as they receive their vaccine. Mike Alberti and Rosalie Hullette continue to hold down the fort, providing weekly transportation to those in need. Our sincere thanks to both of them for all their hard work and dedication. Transportation Coordinator Lisa Hellauer is also doing an outstanding job at keeping our transportation rolling. We'd be lost without her.
- Oxford residents Ann Cummings and Susan Gallian are our newest volunteers at the reception desk. They are both doing an amazing job and we thank them for all their help.
- Sloss Electric was called to replace all recessed lights in the building.

8 **Budget Review:**
None

9. **Old business:**

- No one should be in building if not Oxford resident
- Meals on Thursdays- out of town people should go to "Young at Heart" on route 67

10. **New Business:**

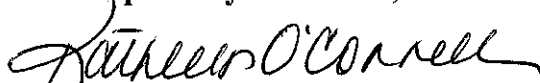
- Lisa Hellauer talked on the transportation grant. It is funded by the State of Connecticut and partially by the Town of Oxford
- All transportation should originate in Oxford
- Need to look into mile radius
- Person to be picked up needs to be at the end of ramp
- Person in nursing home –family member should transport
- Town car is medical only
- Aide should be responsible for getting person on bus
- Vehicles could be brought to Ambulance Center and they will defog it
- Medical appointments are priority, it is not a personal meal delivery service or a personal taxi service. We will be using Dial a Ride guidelines

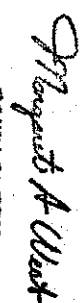
11. **Other Business:** none

12. **Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned with a motion by Rae Bailey and a second by Hank Rotzal. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathleen O'Connell
Clerk

21 JAN 19 AM 10:42
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT

TOWN CLERK