

Elderly Commission
Regular meeting
March 9, 2021
9:30 am
Oxford Senior Center

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

Absent Betty Andrews

1 **Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance**

- Meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer at 9:35am

2. **Amendments to the agenda:** None

3. **Audience of Citizens:** None

4 **Review and Approval of Minutes...**

- Minutes were approved with a motion by Hank Rotzal and seconded by Sue DeSheen. Motion approved unanimously.

5 **Correspondence**

- Jennifer LeCapra, Physical Education teacher and coach at OHS is joining us weekly on Zoom bingo with her Alternative Education students. It has been great fun for all. We are currently working on a possible Friday program as well. Our You Be the Judge program may work. Looking for seniors to read these factual and entertaining short stories.
- Braydon Cretella and Sarah Courtney, students at OHS created the Make a Difference Club. They are looking for ways to connect students with seniors in the community. They are working on a few ideas now. Birthday cards?
- Tracy Prajer-Pelletier, wife of Fire Chief Scott Pelletier is involved with local organization called Grateful Vibes only and is looking for community involvement with senior residents of Oxford.
- Robert Skinner, owner of Extreme Construction of Shelton will be stopping in today to estimate the cost of repairing the outdoor patio ceiling. His estimate was given on 9/27/19 in the amount of \$4,680.00. Pricing of material may have changed since that time. He will provide us with a price as soon as possible and hopefully can get started on this project.

6 **Municipal Agents Report:**

- I am sorry for what I put in last month's Newsletter. I really feel like I "**jinxed**" our weather! Here I was saying what a mile winter so far as the snow was concerned and then *Holy Blizzard!* It seems like it has not stopped snowing since. Even that rodent in Pennsylvania, our famous groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter, well, hopefully, it is almost over now, **spring** is on its way and that is all I'm going to say on this matter!
- First things first, Covid-19 vaccinations hotlines can be scheduled now for individuals over the age of 65. Here are some key telephone numbers to schedule an appointment, The United Way and the State Department of Public Health set up appointment Assist line where professionals where professionals are on duty from 8am to 8pm every day to answer questions of set up an appointment. The telephone number is 1-877-918-2224. Griffin Health site located at 101 Progress Drive in Shelton, 203-433-3394.

- Naugatuck Valley Health District, 203-881-3255. Pomperaug Health District, 204-264-9616. Yale New Haven Health, 1-833-275-9644. I hope these telephone numbers can assist you in making your appointments. Good Luck!
- It's that time of year for the State of Connecticut's **Homeowner's Tax Relief Program**. Once again, the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management, will not be funding this program so you will only receive the **Homeowners Rebate from the Town of Oxford**. Income requirements for single homeowners is \$37,600. For married couples it is \$45,800. Income from both husband and wife must be counted in establishing qualifying income for married couples.
- Due to Covid-19 restrictions and special hours at our Town Hall, it is mandatory that you call the Assessor's Office prior to coming into the Town Hall. You must make an appointment since there will be no walk-ins. For information regarding the Homeowner's program or to make an appointment call the Assessor's Office at 203-888-2543, Ext 3068. Assessor's Office will assist you in what you must bring with you to file for this program **Deadline** for filing for the **Homeowner's Program is May 15**.
- Wishing Everyone the Luck of the Irish and a Happy St. Patrick's Day.
May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more,
And nothing but happiness come through your door!

Director's Report:

- Membership renewals continue to increase, as we safely reopen our doors to out of town members. Members must present their CDC vaccination card at the reception desk to be reported on the vaccination list. Two weeks must have passed since they received their second vaccine. This phase of reopening has been approved by First Selectman George Temple. We hope that all members will be vaccinated by late4 spring, but as we all know, Covis-19 vacations are not mandated.
- We are happy to welcome back a couple of our out of town receptionists. Pat Wiesniak and Pauline Kroffsik have returned. Their help is greatly appreciated and they have been truly missed.
- All virtual programs will continue to be offered and many "in house programs include indoor walking, quilting group, happy hookers, bingo, billiards, reiki sessions, ballroom dancing, craft classes, book club and movie matinees. Hearing screenings will resume on Tuesday March 23rd. Currently 6 out of 7 available appointments are filled. Masks are always mandatory at the center, except wh4n eating or drinking and social distancing is still a must.
The town will be looking into new computers
- AARP tax assistance offered every Wednesday from 9am to 12pm is going well. We added every Monday for additional appointments. We handle approximately 8 to9o 10 appointments daily and still have a wait list of approximately 30. We recently had to close the wait list. Appointments run from February 3rd to April 7th.
- The senior Center Quilters have many quilts donations ready to be delivered to Chapel Haven School in New Haven and Camp Erin, The Cove Center for Grieving Children in Meriden. We thank them for their continued support and dedication to these organizations.
- The Happy Hookers received recognition in the Derby Elk's March newsletter for their generous blanket donations to the veterans.
- Monthly Red Cross blood drives on Saturdays from 8am to9 1pm co9ntinue to fill to capacity, I am responsible for opening and closing the cente4r and our custodian John oversees the events.
- All Westchester Dinner Theatre refunds totaling \$2,655.00 have been issued tour members.
- Valentine's Day drive through lunch provided by Todd Orner -59 members were served at a cost of \$944.00

- We currently have 70 members signed up for the St Patrick's Day drive through lunch on March 16. We will be offering hot dog lunch in house on Thursday, March 25. Sign up for this event is a must. We currently have to 21 signed up.
- Exercise instructor Bobbi Kamaromi fell and broke her hip last month. Her daughter Jesse filled in two of her classes while she was recuperating. She has now fully resumed teaching her classes.
- We are planning an outdoor arts & craft fair for Saturday, May 22nd with a rain date of Saturday, June 5th. There is a \$10.00 charge to reserve a space. Must be an Oxford Senior Center member or resident of Oxford in order to participate. Our center crafters will have at least 2 tables, we will be serving hot dogs, soda, water & dessert for purchase.
- I will be pricing and purchasing an 8ft ladder for use at the center to handle smaller jobs.
- Fire Marshall Mark Krazner recently performed an emergency lighting inspection. We had several lights that needed new batteries, so I sent John to Jascos in Oxford to pick up the new batteries. Electrician Matt Romeo was hired to install them.
- Vehicle maintenance and repairs:
 - 2011 Ford Taurus- oil change and rear brake light replaced, Total 55.52
 - 2011 Ford E250- Brake calipers front & rear, upper & lower ball joints, pads, hose and labor.- total \$1477.06 plus additional \$332.53 for front rotor.
 - 2017 Ford E350- wiper blades and fluid, Total 68.15
- Several future trips are planned and members are already signing in July and a 5 day session in August. Portugal trip with Collette, offered November 2021 and a Panama cruise with Landmark Tours & cruises offered November 2022. Future power point presentations regarding these trips will be scheduled soon.
- I recently submitted the 2021-2022 Senior Center budget to the town. I have provided all commission members with a copy and will be going before the Board of Finance this Thursday, March 11th at 6:00pm for approval. This meeting will be held in person at the town hall.

8. **Budget Review:** none

9. **Old business:**

- BJ's not able to come to Senior Center
- Drive thru lunches are very good
- 50 people for inside eating- not there yet

10. **New Business:**

- A question on a security camera—do we need one for an additional cost
- Painting will be done in a couple of months

11. **Other Business:** none

12. **Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned at 1045am with a motion by Hank Rotzal with a second by Sue DeScheen

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen O'Connell

Kathleen O'Connell
Clerk

21 APR 20 PM 2:00
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Margaret A. West
TOWN CLERK