

Elderly Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
9:30am
Oxford Senior Center

Present: Joyce Niesemski, Sue DeScheen, Betty Andrews, Don Mayer, Heather Haney, Edee Witham, Rae Bailey

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 9:30am by Joyce Niesemski with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer
2. **Amendments to the Agenda:** None
3. **Audience of Citizens:** None
4. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Motion made to accept minutes from meeting of 4-12-2022
5. **Correspondence:** None
6. **Municipal Agents Report:**

Spring has sprung, finally, after a long dreary winter! Daffodils and crocuses brightened up our early days of Spring and our lilies poked through our last snow. I remember looking out my window and seeing them covered with snow hoping they would survive. they did! Now the buds on our trees are starting to burst open. I love it when our spring flowering trees bloom. To me, that is the final stage to wonderfully warm, Spring days. We are well on our way to some glorious days.

Big changes are coming to you 401k especially if you haven't started drawing on it and are still working. they claim that the United States is on the brink of a retirement crisis. Your 401k is supposed to be your primary savings tool for Seniors. According to the census bureau, by the end of this decade 21% of the country's population will be 65 or older. Most non-retired adults have some sort of retirement but perhaps not adequate. Now Congress is looking to help Americans save by bolstering 401k's. A new bill which is expected to reach President Biden's desk by the end of the year could require most employer-sponsored retirement plans to enroll their workers automatically making it easier for older workers and others to make catch-up contributions. Americans had pension plans, Social Security benefits, and IRA's. This is not the case anymore. Now, pension plans are nearly extinct. Social Security payments still provide about 90% of income for a quarter of older adults. Currently, the Social Security trust fund is facing a 75-year deficit and without intervention it will be depleted by the mid 2030's. Lawmakers have reached a stalemate on how to fix it.

When the 401k was introduced in 1978, it was not designed to be the primary source of income. At the time, most higher wage earners used the plan more than the low wage earners who couldn't afford to contribute. Less than 40% of lower paid workers have IRA accounts compared to 80% of middle- and upper-income families. In mid-April, Congress and the Senate passed a bill to change IRA's. Changes include automatic enrollment at a 3% of salary enrollment and would automatically increase by 1% each year until it reaches 10%. (You can opt out). For seniors, there could also be a catch-up phase in the new bill for those who would like to add more to their IRA's. Another change would be to change the mandatory age from 72 to 75 to take your distributions, keep an eye out for new changes coming through for our IRA's.

Wishing everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

Director's Report

We currently have 986 members to date. As of April 11, 2022 our membership dues deposits total \$5300.00. Face masks are no longer required to be worn regardless of vaccination status. Our vaccination log located at the reception desk has been properly filed.

Motor Coach and Extended Trips:

Abba at the Log Cabin, MA- April 20th- 50 travelers to date.

Mohegan Sun- April 26th- 33 travelers to date. (Share bus with Derby Sr. Ctr.) Cost \$30.00pp

Englebert & Tom Jones-May 9th- 16 Oxford travelers to date. (Share with Ashford Sr. Ctr.)

Neil Diamond at the Log Cabin, MA-July 28th-54 travelers to date. Trip Full

Camp Ladore, PA- Aug 8th-12th- 10 travelers to date

Boothbay Harbor, ME-Aug 22-24th-50 travelers to date. Trip full. (No longer a shared trip)

America's National Parks-Aug 20th, 2022- 9 travelers to date

Penn Dutch- Sept 14th-16- 24 travelers to date

America's Music Cities-Oct 16th 2022- 9 travelers to date

Panama Cruise-Nov 6th -212022-41 travelers to date

Senior Center Bus Trips

Walmart & Freihofer's- March 10th- 6 members shopped

St Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Aqua Turf-March 14th-27 members attended

Bowling at Lessard Laned—March 21st— 11 members bowled

Programs and Events

Foor Clinic-March 8th -15 appointments scheduled

Burger Tuesday Lunch-March 15th-25 members served. Collected \$165.00

Movie Matinee-March 15th- approximately 12 members attended

St Paddy's Day Celebration-March 17th-90 members served. Cost to center \$180.00 food subsidy and \$400.00 for the entertainer. Total cost \$580.00

Cupcake Class with Sue Johnson-March 23rd- 14 members attended. Instructor cost: \$25.00

Roots and Branches-March 7th and 28th-17 members attended. Collected \$90.00. No cost to center

Cener Café Lunch-March 30th-36 members served. will donate Hot Dogs 1x month

Bingo-March 30th-67 members attended. Cost \$67.00

Diabetes Workshop- 18 members currently attending the workshop

Hot Dog Lunches-approximately 45-55 members served at each lunch

Hearing Screenings- Cancelled until further notice. Short staffed at this time

Blood Pressure -* appointments scheduled with Housatonic Health Department

AARP Tax appointments every Wednesday at the center will end April 13th

Watch Raffle- Collected \$95.00 to date

Programs and Classes

Ballroom Dance- All participants were notified that if they wish to continue with this program, they must pay a fee of \$5.00 to the instructor George Maderski. The cost per class is \$50.00. We will pay George the difference.

Choral Group

New practice time will be every Friday at 11:30 in the library

Vehicles

- On Tuesday, March 15, 2022 our 2017 Ford E450-20 passenger bus was involved in a minor accident at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, CT. Senior Center driver Lance Kruger was waiting in line to

drop off a patient, when another transport vehicle pulled up quickly on his left side causing a collision between the two vehicles. The incident was immediately reported to the Wallingford Police Department as well as the Town of Oxford. All necessary paperwork has been filed.

- March 28th- Hillside
- Auto- an oil change, filters, lube, fluids and grease fittings for 2010 Ford E-Cost \$47.50
- March 30th our 2017 Ford E450 bus was taken to Hillside Auto in Beacon Falls to assess the damage caused by the accident which occurred on March 15th, 1022. we wanted to make sure the vehicle was mechanically sound. Damage was determined to be superficial only.
- March 31st-Hillside Auto checked 2011 Ford E-350 for rattles in ramp equipment, secure, lube, adjust as necessary. Cost 123.60

Facility Updates:

- We had an issue with the gas grill not igniting. We thought that perhaps we were out of propane. Member Jim Cummings looked in the matter, changed the batteries and cleaned out the connections and the issue was resolved.

Senior Center Updates:

- The “Birthday Social” on the last hot dog Thursday of the month will begin on May 26th. We will sing Happy Birthday, pull the name of the birthday winner and have cake from Big Y for dessert. Cost \$34.99
- Our new needle point, cross stitch and plastic canvas group will be help on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:00-3:00, beginning April 12th. the members of this group came up with the name “Stitch, Grumble and Gripe Group”
- The price increase of our hot dog lunch program from \$2.00-\$3.00 and our monthly themed party from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per person has not changed the number of members attending.
- Ron Stebar and grandson Aidan delivered a beautiful handcrafted poker table to our center. Ron asked us to accept the table as a donation. Our members absolutely love the new addition to the poker room Ron’s kindness will always be remembered.
- Linda McKane informed us the Special Olympics Organization will now be using the senior center parking lot on Thursday evenings at 6:36pm

8. Budget Review

- A motion made by Edee Witham and Seconded by Sue DeScheen to purchase one (1) bookcase for the library. Motion carried.
- The table in the library needs to be repaired. we have someone look at it

9. Old Business

- Transportation cannot take people shopping for appliances or personal shopping. We are not and Uber or Taxi. Rules have to be followed. Runs need to be coordinated. Joe is coming back.
- People are still walking in the kitchen when it is not allowed
- Ladies' bathroom still dirty, needs a thorough cleaning
- People should not be here 2 hours ahead of event starts

10. New Business

- We will be putting benches back outside
- Members requested another walking DND for a change
- Suggested we have a brunch for 10:30am

- Suggested another Polish sausage lunch
- Volunteers keep center going

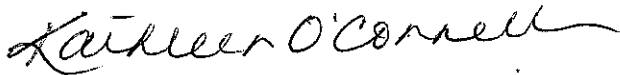
11. Other Business

- Sue Kovacs, assistant director came to speak to the commission

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Edee Witham and a second by Betty Andrews. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathleen O'Connell

Elderly Commission Clerk

22 APR 21 PM 2:38
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Angela A. Black
TOWN CLERK