

**Elderly Commission**  
**Regular meeting**  
**June 13, 2023**  
**Oxford Senior Center**

**Present:** Joyce Niestemski, Sue DeScheen, Don Mayer, Sue Kovak, Edee Witham, Rae Bailey, Joanne Jelenek

**Absent:**

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

- Meeting called to order by chairman Joyce Niestemski at 9:30am with the pledge of allegiance and prayer

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

**3. Audience of Citizens none**

**4 Review and Approval of Minutes:**

- Minutes approved with a motion by Don Mayer and seconded by Sue DeScheen. Motion carried

**5 Correspondence:**

- Received Thank You card and chocolates for the Happy Hookers who once again crocheted "Book Worms" for Quaker Farms students summer reading

**6 Municipal Agents Report:**

- Now that summer is here, I could physically taste the fresh fruits and vegetables that New England is famous for and many are grown right here in Oxford. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program team up to identify individuals or entities which shall distribute the Senior Farmers' Market Card to eligible participants. This year your Oxford Senior Center along with Crestview Senior Housing is participating in this program. The Connecticut Farmers' Market Senior Nutrition or electronic benefit cards redeemable only at authorized Connecticut Farmers markets.
- Eligibility requirements are: You must be 60 years of age and a resident of Oxford. You can only obtain one card per person and proof of income eligibility must be shown. (Most recent Income Tax return, etc.) please note that the annual income shown are incomes for the entire household not per individual. 2023 income limits: household size 1 annual income \$26,697.3. Household size 2 annual income \$36,482, household size 3 annual income \$45,991, Household size 4 annual income \$55,500, Household size 5 annual income \$65,009, Household size 6 annual income \$74,518. If you are eligible *and would like to participate in this Farmer's market program please contact me at 203-888-2090 so we can get you signed up and eating your healthy fresh veggies.*
- Joanne discussed services that she can help people with- Home owners tax, renters rebate, medicare book, charges on bills \* star on drivers licences, medicare savings program, copays, drugs, food stamps (SNAP) food bank-where to go

**7 Director's Report:**

The Senior center current has 1172 members to date. We continue towards the merger of membership data bases for accuracy of numbers and member information.

**Senior Center Donations Received:**

- We received \$250.00 from Ron Bonito who held a Gold Party on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Ron donates 10% of what he earns to the center

**Red Cross Blood Drives at the center:**

Our blood drive was scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 8:00am to 1:00pm, but had to be rescheduled due to a conflict with the center's tag sale. We are currently waiting for a new date for that event.

**Motor Coach and Extended Trips:**

- Foxwood Casino-May 23<sup>rd</sup>-cancelled due to non-participation credit to MGM or refund
- Andrew Sisters at the Log Cabin\_ May 24<sup>th</sup>-20 members travelled
- Camp Ladore-June 12<sup>th</sup> & July 22<sup>nd</sup>- 6 currently at Ladore, 1 going July 24<sup>th</sup>
- Indian Princess-July 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>- both trips are sold out
- MGM Casino-July 25<sup>th</sup>-18 travelers to date
- Buddy and Elvis at the Log Cabin- Aug 9<sup>th</sup>- Sold out
- Waterfire & Newport Getaway-New Date: Sept 9-10<sup>th</sup>-26 registered
- Italy-October 9, 2023-7 registered to date
- Atlantic City-Oct 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>-Sold out
- Caribbean cruise-April 7, 2024-5 travelers to date

**Senior Center Bus Trips: May**

- George and Gracie May 4<sup>th</sup>-14 members traveled
- Bell Choir performed at the Oxford Congregational Church on May 19<sup>th</sup>

**May Programs and Events:**

- Mother's Day Luncheon-90 Mom's were served at \$15.00pp-\$1350 collected. Catered by Cuginos \$1427.76. Entertainment: Kate O'Brien and friend \$375.00. cost \$442-76
- May TEAM Lunch Program- cancelled only one signed up decision going forward to continue, with speaker on nutrition. We should be offering informational discussions for seniors and TEAM offers this service as well. Also, Meals on Wheels or other options can be offered?
- Bingo May 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>-96 members attended- cost to center \$75.00
- Craft classes with Ann Cummings continue to fill to the maximum limits
- Haircut and Pedi
- Care foot appointments continued in May with full schedules
- Music Trivia Book 6 participants cost to center \$210.00- put on hold

**Transportation:**

- Ellen Fox has been hired as our new transportation dispatcher. She will be working 15 hours a week from center and home. Peg Hamila has been hired as a driver
- We continue to see an ADA van, ideally through a state grant. If so, it would be possible to use the funds from the totaled van to purchase a newer car, as no grants will cover a non ADA vehicle. Members with walkers are limited with use of car. A meeting with Jim Hliva, former and current grant writers and director was to take place in April. This will presumably be rescheduled once new director arrives.

- One of our CDL drivers has been injured and is going to be out for the foreseeable future. We will be left with only one CDL driver when another CDL has hand surgery this month. We are seeking another CDL per diem driver, as Ropsalie is no longer a CDL.

#### **Facility Updates:**

- We had annual water cross connection test which we passed once a hose bibb was replaced.
- We were once again having back up issues in kitchen drainage. A plumber cleared out grease traps and drains. Cost to center \$750.00.

#### **Senior Center Updates**

- We are slowing down with several exercise classes for the summer and are communicating changes to members. When some classes resume it has been suggested they be better coordinated with any party events.
- 

#### **Communications:**

- Newsletters were complete and mailed early for both May and June. While member mailing information was being diligently updated with help of volunteers, an issue occurred which resulted in many members' mailing status being switched off. I continue comprehensive training of the program will be offered to expand it utilization,. (New director very familiar with this program.)
- Beginning with the July newsletter, we will seek to have members have newsletter sent electronically to save cost and time. Many centers have moved towards this, and it will also provide an additional way to reach out to members with reminders, updates,etc

Thank you again for those of you who stepped up to help since April 14<sup>th</sup>. I trust that we will all enjoy the center much more once we have a fully staffed positive team working together to meet the needs of our members. Stay positive!

8 **Budget Review:** None

9. **Old business:**

- Dancer George will need to cancelled the end of June due to lack of interest
- TEAM lunch- need to be put on hiatus- very poor attendance. Motion to put TEAM on hiatus until end of year made by Sue DeScheeen with a second by Rae Bailey. Motion carried.
- Bathrooms are very dirty and kitchen not clean. When activities are going on maintenance should not be doing floors.
- We need to have someone come when maintenance is not here.
- We need to have 40 people on coach to have trip run to make even. If we don't fill bus we loose money
- Bowling- We need to have 10 people
- Question raised why we are not getting free baked goods
- Receptionists: training will be done after trainers meet with the new director
- Some receptionists doing 2-3 days. People want to volunteer and we need to find ways to utilize them
-

10. **New Business:**

- New Director- Sandra Arburr will start June 26<sup>th</sup>
- We recently an opportunity to hook up with Griffin Hospital and the nurses that are going through training
- Peggy- our nurse stated we need new supplies for our first aid kits in center and also in buses. Motion made by Betty Andrews with a second by Edee Witham to check kits. Motion carried.
- Kitchen Permit outdated, we need to reapply to Housatonic Health

11. **Other Business:** none

12. **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 with a motion by Don Mayer with a second by Edee Witham.  
Motion carried

**Respectfully Submitted,**



Kathleen O'Connell  
Clerk

TOWN OF GRAFTON, CT  
2023 JUN 20 P 4:44  
TOWN CLERK