

Elderly Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Nov 9, 2021 - 9:00 AM  
Oxford Senior Center

Present: Joyce Niestemski, Betty Andrews,  
Sue DeScheen, Hank Rotzel, Larry  
Morgan, Rae Bailey, Heather Haney

1. Call to order / Pledge of Allegiance:

Meeting called to order by Joyce  
Niestemski at 9:30 AM with pledge  
of Allegiance and a prayer

2. Amendments to the Agenda - None

3. Audience of Citizens -

Sue Galion, Carol Gliford, Tom Raccisano,  
Helen Curtis

Helen - likes Senior Center very much

Tom - his initial observation of center - nice,

- remarkable job Heather doing
- very robust calendar
- went to offsite, well planned & organized
- residents outside Oxford, coming here because more to do here
- camaraderie very good among staff

Sue

- Thanked Heather for being able to volunteer

Card - Praise for Heather

#### 4. Review & Approval of minutes -

- Motion made by Hank Rotzal & a second by Sue DeScheen to approve minutes

#### 5. Correspondence: None

#### 6. Municipal Agents Report:

Last month, I mentioned a possible increase in our social security. Thank the Lord, I was correct with that statement. We are getting a whopping 5.9% increase for 2022 - this is the highest increase in 39 years and we can thank Covid-19 for it - the COLA which it is commonly called (Cost of Living Adjustment) will add approximately \$92 a month for the average retired worker, according to estimates from the Social Security Administration. It's a lot better than the low percentages we have been getting like 1.65% that we have been averaging over the past 10 years. With the increase, the estimated average social security payment for a retired worker (depending on what you are currently receiving) will be \$1657 a month next year. A couples benefits could rise by \$153 per month. With the rising costs of food, gasoline and other services and goods, all of our increase

will be eaten up with necessities-  
Representative John Larson, chairman  
of the House Social Security subcommittee  
wants to tackle shortfalls that  
could leave the program unable to  
pay full benefits in less than 15  
years. AARP claims that "Social  
Security remains the largest source  
of retirement income for most  
Americans and provides nearly income,  
90% or more for one in 4 seniors."

I'd like to share this little  
Thanksgiving poem with you.

Let your Heart be full of Thanksgiving

Welcome a stranger, Seek out a forgotten  
friend, Keep a promise, Laugh, Listen,  
Brighten the heart of a child, Encourage  
the young, Express your gratitude,  
Be gentle, Pleasure in the beauty  
and wonder of the day, Speak  
your love, Speak it once again,  
And Speak it once again -  
And let your Heart be filled with  
Thanksgiving

6. Directors Report -  
See Attached

7. Budget  
good

8. Old Business

- Bingo for breast cancer - shouldn't give gift cards for winning bingo - Should be part of raffle
- People should not be in Kitchen if not vaccinated -
- people should not come in to just talk
- people should ask for ice
- meals from cafe should not be left in freezer
- Problem with non members & Vaccination
- Need to look into painting walls
- Veteran's Day Celebration on wed, Nov 10

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 with a motion by Hank Rotzel and a second by Betty Andrews

Respectfully Submitted by

Kathleen O'Connell  
clerk

21 NOV 17 PM 1:32  
TO: HOF OXFORD, CT  
FROM: HOF OXFORD, CT  
SUBJECT: HOF OXFORD, CT

**OXFORD SENIOR CENTER**  
**10 Old Church Road**  
**Oxford, Connecticut 06478**

**Elderly Commission - Director's Report**

**Meeting held November 9, 2021**

Current membership to date **1062** members. Masks are *still* not required for members who show proof of vaccination. If an individual is not vaccinated, they must continue to wear a mask at all times except while eating or drinking. We continue to update the new vaccination log located at the reception desk and added a receptionist notebook that enables our volunteers to communicate with one another on a regular basis.

**Correspondence:**

None

**Motor Coach Trips:**

Motor Coach – Lancaster, PA. – Oct. 6-8, 2021 – 50 travelers – ~~Pomperaug Senior Center (50% capacity)~~

Motor Coach – Oktoberfest – Pamona, NY- Oct. 20th - 31 members traveled - Sue Kovacs led this trip. We received many great reviews and a fun time was had by all.

Motor Coach – Mohegan – Oct. 26, 2021 – 44 travelers (Oxford, Derby & Beacon Falls) ~~50~~

~~Motor Coach~~. No trips have been scheduled for the upcoming winter months.

Motor Coach – Atlantic City, Caesars- Oct. 26 – 28, 2021 – 52 travelers. Profit TBD. *Travel Group*

Motor Coach – Atlantic City, Tropicana -Nov. 28-29, 2021 – 41 travelers currently.

Portugal – Nov. 2-11, 2021 - 11 travelers - ~~Pomperaug Senior Center~~

Panama Cruise – Nov. 6-21, 2022 – 36 travelers currently to date.

**Senior Center Bus Trips:**

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Cruise (Two Trips scheduled Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>) 40 travelers

Goodspeed Opera House – 40 travelers (Two trips scheduled Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>)

**Programs and Events:**

October 9th Blood Drive- 51 appointments were scheduled.

Pomperaug Health Flu Clinic Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> – 93 appointments were scheduled.

Bingo for Breast Cancer Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – 66 members attended. Thanks to the generosity of our members and sponsors, we raised \$405.00 for Griffin Health's Valley Goes Pink. Sponsors include The Oxford House, The Sitting Duck, Market 32, Country Creamery, Char & Lemon and Tea with Tracy. Our senior center quilters were kind enough to donate a beautiful quilt for a raffle prize as well.

Center Café Lunch Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>- 24 members served.

Regular Bingo – Approximately 50 members attended on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Panama Cruise Presentation Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – 18 members attended.

Hearing Screenings- 6 appointments scheduled.

Glass Gem Art Class with Instructor Debbie Mitchell- 11 members attended.

Foot Clinic- 10 appointments scheduled.

Blood Pressures- 19 appointments scheduled with Peg from Pomperaug Health department.

Movie Matinee- Approximately 26 members attended.

Attorney Domenick Calabrese, Estate Planning – Approximately 50 members in attendance.

Hot Dog Lunches- Approximately 40-50 members served at each lunch.

TEAM lunches – both scheduled lunches were cancelled due to lack of sign-ups.

Halloween Party Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – 66 members attended.

AARP Driver Safety Course scheduled for Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> was cancelled by AARP. No classes will be offered for the rest of the year due to Covid-19. Rescheduled this course for April 5<sup>th</sup> & August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Programs and Classes that have recently resumed or have been added:**

- ✓ Tai Chi- Certified instructor, Diane Lewis, is offering a free six week session every Monday, beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> and ending December 6<sup>th</sup>. This class has been extremely well received.
- ✓ Poise & Posture Class - Instructor Gabby Takacs-Fabry- participation increases weekly.
- ✓ Salsa Dance/Exercise Class - Instructor Gabby Takacs-Fabry- Becoming a very popular class with participation also increasing weekly.

**Vehicles:**

- Bus 2- 2010 Ford E350 was taken to Advanced Wheels in East Haven. Drivers were still experiencing an intermittent issue with the power lift. It was an interlock issue and the vehicle was able to slip out of park when the emergency brake is deployed. They had to remove and replace the interlock module. Lift was cycled multiple times and vehicle is no longer able to shift out of park when the emergency brake is on. Cost: \$634.00

**Facility Updates:**

- While I was chaperoning an Atlantic City bus trip, we experienced a water valve break on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Halloween Party scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> had to be postponed for a day until the valve was replaced by Scott Halstead. The center had to close for the day on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> due to no water. We have not yet received an invoice for this repair, but I was told it would cost approximately \$2,300.00.
- On Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> I noticed a foul smell outside and inside the building. I called New England Septic to come pump the tank at a cost of \$480.00 We were not due until the end of this month for our yearly service.
- Purchased ten new reflectors on poles for the parking lot curbs. Cost: \$40.31

**Senior Center Updates:**

- We received a full refund in the amount of \$360.00 from the Big E trip that was cancelled
- The Oxford Garden Club continues to meet at the center once a month on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 in the library.
- I spoke with Kevin Miles and Dawn Passerine at Public Works regarding painting the curbs in the parking lot. Kevin said he was having trouble ordering the yellow safety paint. I was able to order it online and had it delivered to the center. Public works said they will do their best to have the curbs painted before the end of this week.
- A meeting with all receptionists was held Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 to discuss office procedures and protocol. A copy of topics discussed has been provided to each board member.
- Thanksgiving Food Drive is going well. Member and volunteer Sue Galian sent out an email to the residents of her community at Riverbend Estates and has been collecting and delivering donated items to the center. We thank her for her kindness and help with this fundraising event.
- Our annual Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2021 at the Grand Oak Villa, Oakville. Cost: \$32.00 per person. We currently have 187 members signed up and paid. A refund was going to be issued to the family of long time member, Josephine Mastrorocco, after her untimely passing, but her family insisted we keep the \$32.00 as a donation to the center. Please remember all Elderly Commission members are invited as

our guests. We hope you can attend this wonderful event!

- A reminder to all commission members whose terms will be expiring on December 31<sup>st</sup>  
Please submit your letters to the Board of Selectmen as soon as possible if you wish to continue serving on the board. Susan DeScheen has already been reappointed by the Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather Haney".

Heather Haney  
Director of Senior Services