



AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – April 16, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
Eno Memorial Hall – Youth Room IN PERSON

MEETING MINUTES - SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

PRESENT

Jan Beatty, Margaret Haldeman, Libby Easton-May, Deb Glass, Mike Jennings, Anne Erickson, Terry Henault, and Kathleen Marschall (Senior Center Coordinator)

EXCUSED

Ed LaMontagne, Jen Seiderer, Kate Robbins, Cheryl Cook, Sandee Fleet, Claire Corbett, Diana Yeisley (BOS Liaison)

ABSENT

Robin Batchelder

CALL TO ORDER: Jan Beatty, Vice Chairman, at 6:05 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC AUDIENCE/PUBLIC COMMENT

Guests: Charlie Hansell and Stephanie Yocum attending. Charlie is a Boy Scout in Troop 175 and is attending as part of his merit badge requirements.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Special Meeting of March 19, 2024

Corrections noted by Jan. Motion passed to accept corrected minutes.

BOS LIAISON REPORT - Diana Yeisley, currently at a Town Budget meeting, reported by email.

Board of Selectman recognized and read a proclamation declaring **April as autism awareness month**.

A young man, Will Braunlich, who is on the autism spectrum, spoke. There were several young adults with autism in attendance, and this had support from the entire board.

Part of the budget process includes looking at some town positions, one of which was funded with ARPA funds, which have come to an end; unfortunately, the position held by Erika Cleveland was eliminated from social services. The **budget referendum** is tentatively set for May 16.

Simsbury Community Cleanup Day is this Saturday, April 20, from 9 to 11. Supplies will be available at Town Hall. Registration is not required.

Hazardous Waste Collection will be Saturday, April 20, from 8 to 1 at Farmington High School. This is free to Simsbury residents.

The annual **Memorial Day Parades** are set for May 27:

Tariffville Green to Saint Bernard cemetery

Hopmeadow Street from Liberty Bank to the Simsbury Veterans Memorial

On June 27, there will be an **intergenerational tie-dye event** with Social Services.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT - Kathleen Marschall

Jan prefaced Kathy's report by offering congratulations to Kathy on being recognized as the Simsbury Municipal Agent for Elderly Persons and the commissioners added their congratulations. Kathy noted several upcoming programs as described in **The Senior Communicator (May/June)** which she distributed.

She made special mention of a program later this month: **Speak Out! Therapy Info Session** on Thursday, April 25, 2:00-3:00 pm at Eno. Emily Solis, Speech Language Pathologist and Clinic Supervisor at McLean Outpatient Therapy, will introduce this program designed for individuals with Parkinson's Disease.

The Intonations concert on May 2nd at 11 am was moved to McLean as the Eno Hall Elevator will not be functional until mid-May.

The annual **Firehouse Pancake Breakfast** will be Thursday, May 16th from 9:30-11 am.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY - Jan Beatty

Promotion for the three upcoming focus groups is going well with spots filling rapidly:

Wednesday, April 24 at McLean (Goodrich Building), 7-8:30pm

Friday, April 26 at the Library (Weatogue Room), 2-3:30pm

Saturday, April 27 at Trinity Episcopal (Tariffville), 10:30-12

Libby and Kate will be notetakers

If interest exceeds capacity (8-10 people each), another focus group could be organized.

PROGRAM REPORTS

- Sensory Movie at SPL
 - ~21 attendees, broad age range
- Services For Seniors Forum
 - ~6 attendees [what can we do differently to increase interest?]
 - Steps to Safety (with speakers Fire Marshall Patrick Tourville, Clifford and Officer Jamie Ball, Ann Grella, Coordinator of Elderly Outreach, Senior Center, and Amanda Hubbard, Farmington Valley Health District)
 - Simsbury Medical Equipment Loan Locker (Alan Needham)
 - Age-Friendly Community Initiative
- Souper Thursday - May 9th
 - Norcom Mortgage will sponsor
 - Anticipate 50 attendees, may need ~6 volunteers (Libby, Deb, Terry, Anne, Ed)
 - Advertise sponsorship
 - Terry and Deb will contact Cheryl and then contact Antonio's about the menu
- Picnic at the Farms - Saturday, July 20th
 - Made contact with First Church
 - Still no update from funding requests (will follow-up)
 - Library plan- bubble wands, Lego table, "lawn game"
 - Musician and Balloon Animal/Magician are open to reducing their fees.

OLD BUSINESS

- Commission Brochure
 - New version was distributed
- Affordable Housing Update – Cheryl Cook- excused
 - Simsbury Housing Policy Advisory Committee (Jen is the A&D rep/Jan is the alternate) –
 - first meeting May 8
- Simsbury Social Connections Project
 - Working with For All Ages- three scheduled meetings
 - 3/23 @2-3:30 was well attended, provided overview of the loneliness problem
 - 4/18 @6-7:30 and 5/11 @ 3-4:30
- Handicap Parking Awareness Month > June
 - Ed provided a Handout with five action items to educate residents, and businesses, and to enhance enforcement.

NEW BUSINESS

- Performing Arts Center – Assistance for Seniors/Persons with Disabilities
 - Proposal to provide assistance
 - June 28 and July 5, 12, 19, 26
 - Looking for logistics on how this will work

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned without objection at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting, May 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Eno Memorial Hall

Submitted by

Margaret Haldeman