

WALLINGFORD COMMITTEE ON AGING, INC.

November 17, 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

ATTENDANCE: Steve Allinson, Karen Anderson, Anne Bernick, Tom Daly, Rosemary DeAngelis, Rocco DiGenova, George Duffy, Audrey Grove, Tom Finn, Jane Fisher, Susan Gomes, Ronald Graziani, Glenn Havumaki, Joann Hummel, Tara Knapp and Bill Viola

EXCUSED: Evangeline Bourgeois

ABSENT: Alberta Flynn

President Tom Daly called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

President Tom Daly asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October 20, 2023 Secretary's Report.

Jane Fisher made a motion to accept the October's Secretary's Report. Susan Gomes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2023 Operating Account Report

Treasurer George Duffy reported on the four months ending October 31, 2023. Receipts are \$328,103 which is \$3,619 above the budgeted amount of \$324,484. Expenditures are \$335,299 which is \$10,815 above the budgeted amount. This results in a net negative of \$7,196. This is a combination of various insurances prepaid for the year, an increase in the audit cost, and mental health services which get reimbursed after the fact. It will work out in the long run.

Anne Bernick made a motion to accept the October Operating Account Report. Glenn Havumaki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

September 2023 Program Account Report

Program Director Karen Anderson reported that Club 60+ has 279 members with 254 having SilverSneakers or Renew Active. September had 1,258 swipes for checks totaling \$2,607. This was about \$300 less than last month which was affected by internet problems for two days. Insurances will change in January 2024 so we'll have to review members for any changes. There were a few day trips, resulting in about \$700 in commission. The trip to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta did very well with 18 passengers netting a commission of \$6,500. Lake View Café is doing well with a profit of \$3,177.

Rosemary DeAngelis made a motion to accept the October Program Account Report. Audrey Grove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Tom Daly asked that the Consent Agenda be accepted.

Susan Gomes made a motion to accept the October Consent Agenda. Steven Allinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director

Executive Director Bill Viola reported that as he mentioned previously, he, Tom Daly, Anne Bernick, Joann Hummel and Karen Anderson went to the Agency on Aging of South Central CT's annual meeting to receive their Outstanding Community Partner Award. Everyone worked together to achieve this recognition. Transportation Department was struggling this past month, but now have two of our drivers back. Dave Petro and the rest of the drivers really pulled together to cover and we are back on our feet again. The brush behind Lake View Café has been cleared out so we're able to see the lake and birds again. Upgrading of the computers took place and despite a couple of glitches, we got it done. Also had problem with the alarm system (of course, while ED was in Florida) and finally took it off line for 72 hours. This problem occurs for three or four days and then stops. The motion sensor has been replaced and hopefully, it will get worked out. Public Works was in to test the sprinkler system and noticed our hot water heater was leaking in the boiler room. Not an emergency to replace it immediately but it was put in before the walls around it were built so trying to see if a smaller tank would work as well. Fortunately, it's a slow leak and Public Works is on it. Good news is the new HVAC unit was delivered and put in place on the roof. Next, the control system will be put in. George, Carmela and ED have been discussing moving various WCOA accounts to different banks to ensure FDIC protection, as recommended by the auditor, Tom Roy, auditor. Happy to announce that Lake View's afternoon canteen is back. Wanted to get it restarted over the summer but finally have the volunteers for it and will offer coffee, dessert, etc. Busy holiday season coming up.

Program Director

Karen Anderson reported that the beginning of October there was a medium here to do readings. There were about 120 people but she was only able to read about 8 people. It was very interesting. So many people wanted to do attend so we hope to bring her back to the Senior Center in early spring. End of October there was a Halloween party. Had scheduled with Ashley Cruz but she cancelled for surgery so replaced with a magician. It was still fun and entertaining. Flu clinic was here with about 114 people, provided by East Shore District Health Department. It's getting harder to find agencies willing to come out for that. The Lyman Hall Italian Club, who we have a good relationship with, came out and played bocce with our members. Our Holiday Fair the beginning of November did very well. We bought 300 green totes to distribute and they were gone by 11:00 a.m. Estimate there was over 600 people that attended and the parking lot was completely full. Raffle had 50 prizes and it did very well. After expenses, the Senior Center made about \$8,500 from the fair. Thanksgiving celebration was this past Wednesday and the kitchen did a wonderful job, with all hands-on deck. Everyone worked hard and it was very positive and rewarding. December 12th is the holiday luncheon with Lyman Hall Chorus. Uncertain if the Senior Center will host AARP tax preparers this year since AARP is having a difficult time finding preparers. January newsletter is due next week so may have to put TBD.

Social Services

Joann Hummel came on board about a year and half ago. She stated she is very proud of getting the CT Food Share Mobile Unit here and it has been a great success. It's in our parking lot every other Tuesday from 8:30 – 9:15 a.m. It started coming here in September and it is feeding about 150 people every other week. It's a safe area here and it's better than where it was before. The volunteers are wonderful and everyone is very grateful. Joined the Harvest Program, which is a donation program that connects with area restaurants and we have Red Lobster. Joann goes every other week to get cooked surplus food and bags it into small

portions. The Harvest Program enables her to help people with food insecurities. After meeting with someone, she is able to fill a bag with seafood and biscuits for them. People are very happy to receive shrimp, crab and biscuits. Even had lobster once! Support groups are every Friday with Grief and Loss Support Group, as well as Covid Post Stress, Anxiety and Loneliness. Every month more people are joining and it really is helping people. Friendships are occurring outside the support groups which is a great response for people who were suffering from loneliness. It's Medicare enrollment time and have appointments every day. Also, New Opportunities is here on Wednesdays helping people with fuel assistance. Joined a Housing Discussion Group to help town officials understand the housing crisis. The town does not have an open homeless shelter and there is nowhere for people to go in Wallingford. The 211 system gets activated but the process is long and difficult for people. A discussion followed about potential problems and what people can do to alleviate sleeping in their car or on the streets. A Wallingford Police Officer called to inform Joann that he was developing a policy for response action for the police and/or volunteers to help older people who live alone and may be vulnerable. He requested that, if possible, she assist him in the process, which she is happy to do.

OLD BUSINESS

Long-Range Planning

LRP Committee met last week and reviewed the plan. Felt very positive about some of our goals, especially in programs. The afternoon canteen was one goal met. The donation button is active on the website for programs and memorial donations. Talked about the need for additional staffing for increasing the hours and will be requesting that in the new budget. Also, will be requesting a facilities person to do a lot of the things ED does that probably the new person would not be doing. Will review the plan better when ED has the numbers for the annual report.

Grant Update

ED was recently notified that the \$6,860 left from the AASCC grant is now closed because it only ran until September 30. However, we didn't receive the contract until December and the forms were completed in March. So that was actually only 6 months, not 12 months. AASCC did get back to ED to say that they have a no cost extension amendment so that we can continue to use the remaining funds. Still have \$25,000 from the town ARPA funds to use when this does run out.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Susan Gomes made the motion to adjourn. Rosemary DeAngelis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth H. Johnson
Administrative Assistant