

FINAL
Minutes of the Commission on Aging Monthly Meeting
March 1, 2023

Attendees: Halesteen Graham Days, Marie MacDonald, Patricia Miller, Jeannette Rivers, Leon Rivers, Peter Wilcox

Guests: Yvette Huyghue-Pannell (senior services liaison), India Rodgers (director of strategic communications), Kay Sherman, Brian Wolff (strategic communications department)

Absent: Bob Berman, Susan Odoms, Barbara Reisner, Shirley Thompson

Pat called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm.

Old Business:

Possibility of an off-site meeting: Peter suggested contacting sites prior to visiting. Yvette proposed waiting until the reappointed/new Commission members are sworn in. Halesteen suggested Woodside Village in April and Federation Homes in May. However, in looking at a calendar after the meeting, Yvette noted that Passover begins on the evening of the April meeting; therefore, she recommends deferring an April offsite meeting and visiting Woodside Village in May, then having the June meeting, which is prior to the summer break, back in the Human Services Center.

State Representative Bobby Gibson's office has confirmed that he and other guests will be available to present another panel discussion at the senior center on March 20. The event will begin with a "meet and greet" at 4:30 pm, with the formal program immediately following at 5:00 pm. Camilla Hillian, Director of Social & Youth Services, and Dawn Cooper-Grodger, Assistant Director of Social & Youth Services, will also be a part of the panel, along with AARP Connecticut and the State of Connecticut.

There are still appointments available for the AARP Tax Aide Program, which will continue every Wednesday through April 12. The coordinator is working to streamline the process and reduce waiting times for clients. Consideration is also being given to exploring ways to help fill out questionnaires and review client documents for completeness prior to their actual appointments next year.

New Business:

Pat reminded everyone that the Commission on Aging is not a political party and suggested that members try to keep personal feelings out of any discussion.

Public Comments:

India Rodgers and Brian Wolff spoke about what they do in the Office of Strategic Communications and Government Affairs. The department was created in August to streamline communication with the town and the community. They noted that the town calendar was not being sent out this year. There will be a new quarterly newsletter. Weekly news is submitted by each of the town departments. The main purpose is to make the sharing of information user friendly. A question was asked as to how to get on the mailing list. There is a link to the town newsletter on the town website. <https://www.bloomfieldct.gov/town-managers-office/strategic-communications-and-government-affairs/pages/bloom-quarterly> However, it was noted that many residents do not have access to the internet. India asked for suggestions as to how they can

make information access more user friendly. It was suggested that more information be shared with BATV and local television and radio stations. Halesteen commented that BATV appears to have dropped out of sight. There is a reverse Code Red program where the town can send messages in a format similar to a reverse 9-1-1.

A number of residents are looking for help in clearing snow from around fire hydrants near their properties after a storm.

There will be Two *Cooking for 1 (or 2) Can Be Fun* classes in March (on the 10th and the 24th). Both will begin at 11:30 am.

The next SNAP-Ed program at the senior center (*Make a Change*) will take place at 10:30 am on Friday, March 17. This program is open to any adult over the age of 18 who would like to participate.

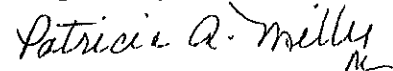
Plans are underway to resume the Town Hall Greeter program. Volunteers staff the reception area between the hours of 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Peter made a motion to approve the February minutes. Leon seconded. All were in favor. The minutes are approved.

Leon made a motion to adjourn; Peter seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

The next meeting will take place at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, April 5.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A. Miller
Secretary