

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF**  
**THE KILLINGWORTH COMMITTEE ON AGING**  
**Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:00 p.m.**  
**Killingworth Town Hall**

**Members in Attendance:** Joan Gay, Joyce Mason, Jean Panciera, and Ex-officio Member, Mercedes Riccuiti

**Members Absent:** Bill Joyce & Mary Solera

**Visitors:** Sandy Allard, Kate Moran, and Jamie Sciascia (Via Remote)

**Called to Order:** The meeting was Called to Order at 5:00 p.m. by Joan Gay, Chair

**Roll Call:** Chair Gay took a Roll Call of all Members and Visitors in attendance at the meeting.

**Communications:**

Chair Gay advised that she received an email from First Selectman Gorski indicating Community members were inquiring as to what age is considered a Senior in the Town of Killingworth. Gorski also advised that some Community members were having trouble accessing the Survey link that was circulated. First Selectman Gorski suggested that the Committee on Aging could send an Addendum out referencing the age for Seniors is 60 also noting that it is based upon State Statute also referencing the State Statute number. In case there are future questions, Chair Gay suggested putting her name, address and phone number so Community Members can reach out to her directly.

Town Clerk Dawn Mooney received an email from Mandy Ruggiero, Senior Mortgage Loan Originator/Reverse Mortgage Specialist from Eastern CT Savings Bank, which was read into the record and posted into the Committee's SharePoint folder by Clerk Sciascia:

“Good morning. I recently saw the survey related to identifying the needs of seniors. Attached is a “reverse mortgage 101” guide. I conduct free informational sessions if that is something you would be interested in. I have done them at senior centers, libraries, etc. With the cost of living continuing to rise, it makes it very difficult for homeowners on a fixed income to make ends meet. The financial hardships create a lot of stress, which impact the mental and physically well-being of our seniors. Many do not understand how a reverse mortgage works and how it could potentially help. I am not selling anything – I’m just out sharing the information and if it can help someone stay in their home, then they can reach out to me for additional information. I have conducted these sessions as “lunch and learns,” or it can just be an evening session with snacks. Most places have chosen

to publicize it and have people call or email to sign up so that we know the space that will be needed. Please let me know if you'd like to discuss this further. As a side note, the President and Vice President of our bank are both residents of Killingworth so they know the community well."

Committee Members discussed that Chair Gay would reach back out to Mandy Ruggerio to let her know that the program she is offering would be something the Committee would consider as a possible program in the future.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion #1 - Joyce Mason *Moved* and Jean Panciera *Seconded* a motion to accept the Minutes from the Committee on Aging Special Meeting that was held on October 16, 2023 as presented.

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, J. Mason, J. Panciera

Motion unanimously passed (3-0-0).

**Report from Municipal Agent for the Elderly, Mercedes Riccuiti:**

Mercedes Riccuiti reported that Fuel Assistance is coming to a close. Since September, there have been 33 applicants in Killingworth. A majority of people have been going to Middletown to fill out an application because they can get an answer right away.

**Reports:**

**- Identification of Needs of Seniors - Joyce Mason**

Joyce Mason reported on the Senior Survey that the Researching Group prepared and looked into how to best distribute it to Seniors in Town. The Researchers also looked into the best way to print off copies of the Survey for distribution given their \$1,500 Budget including utilizing Staples printers, doing it themselves, using the Town Hall Postage Machine all coming back way too expensive. Chair Gay decided to approach River Cog, and set up a zoom meeting with Kevin Armstrong, about utilizing Survey Monkey. If the Committee chose to utilize Survey Monkey, they wouldn't have to acquire a license. However, the Researchers still decided after discussion, that a paper copy of the Survey was still needed in order to accommodate those Seniors who didn't have any computers or don't know how to access the link to fill it out. Joyce Mason took the original Survey and tweaked it in order to match what was being provided under the Survey Monkey in a yes/no format.

The Survey is Live, and First Selectman Gorski sent her email blast out in Constant Contact. Bill Joyce will be distributing the Survey to those residents of Beechwood. There will be some copies also available at Town Hall that residents can come in and fill out. Surveys are due back December 7th. Discussion took place on the possibility of extending the Survey deadline but waiting to see how responses come in first and also circulating a reminder the week before.

Further discussion took place about being able to keep track of which Senior was helped with filling out the Survey at the Library in order to eliminate duplicates online.

Chair Gay thanked Kevin Armstrong at RiverCog who was outstanding not only in giving suggestions as to what to do for the Survey but actually putting it all together. Kevin was very quick, efficient and responsive. Chair Gay also gave a special thanks to Joyce Mason for leading the Researcher Group and thanked Mary Solera and Sandy Allard for their help. Lastly, Chair Gay thanked Mercedes Riccuiti for making sure the printing of the Survey got done and also thanked First Selectman Gorski for her support and putting out the email blast.

**Communications - Bill Joyce and Mercedes Riccuiti:**

Chair Gay asked that Bill Joyce and Mercedes Riccuiti meet in order to research and discuss ideas on how to communicate with Seniors inside and outside the Beachwood Community and put the need to have specifics behind it. She asked Mercedes and Bill to bring their ideas back to the full Committee at their next meeting for discussion and a vote on how to do it.

**Senior Center:**

Chair Gay had a meeting with First Selectman Gorski to review the ARPA funds for Senior Center and found that they still don't qualify to receive them because there is no Senior Center in Town or an established Coordinator. Chair Gay and First Selectman Gorski would like to put a proposal together for the Budget for a part-time Coordinator for the Committee on Aging; however, it would be effective for the following fiscal year, July 2024. Chair Gay stated that the Committee will need to go in front of the BOS and give them a status as to their achievements to date, giving them justification why the Committee needs a part-time Coordinator. First Selectman Gorski will continue working with Chair Gay on the Senior Center post election.

Chair Gay discussed with Karl Kilduff, the Town Manager in Clinton, the job description and details for Clinton's Part-Time Coordinator.

**.2024 Calendar of Meetings:**

Chair Gay spoke about the 2024 Meeting Schedule and all dates fell in line with the fourth Wednesday of the Month except Christmas so she scheduled that one for December 18th.

Motion #2 - Jean Panciera *Moved* and Joyce Mason *Seconded* a motion to accept the 2024 Calendar of Meetings as presented.

Voting to Approve: J. Gay, J. Mason, J. Panciera

Motion unanimously passed (4-0-0).

**Old Business: No Report.**

**New Business: No Report.**

**Next Regular Meeting: December 27, 2023**

The Committee had a brief discussion about the next regular meeting scheduled for December 27th. The Committee will keep the meeting date as is, and if need be, the Committee could always schedule a special meeting and cancel that one out. The Committee would need to let Town Clerk Mooney know as soon as possible if they choose to do so.

**Adjournment:** Chair Gay adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk