

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE KILLINGWORTH**  
**COMMITTEE ON AGING**  
**Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Killingworth Town Hall**

**Members in Attendance:** Cheryl Fine, Joan Gay, Bill Joyce, Joyce Mason, and Ex-officio Member, Mercedes Riccuiti, Municipal Agent for the Elderly

**Members Absent:** Margaret Tobelman

**Visitors:** Sandy Allard, Kate Moran

**Called to Order:** The meeting was Called to Order at 5:30 p.m. by Joan Gay, Chair

**Roll Call:** Chair Gay took a Roll Call of all Committee Members and Visitors in attendance at tonight's meeting.

**Communications:**

Chair Gay reported that she had received a letter from Alli Behnke from Haddam Killingworth Youth and Family Services which she circulated to the Committee. She stated that an announcement regarding Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a program that would help the Haddam-Killingworth Senior Citizens was prematurely reported on Facebook. The HK Youth and Family Services would like to team up with Haddam Senior Services and the Killingworth Committee on Aging in order to match the elderly with assistance in specific areas of need, one of them being yard work. This will require a vote that will be introduced later in the Agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion #1 - Joyce Mason *Moved* and Joan Gay *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Committee on Aging Meeting that was held on April 24, 2024 as presented.

Voting to Approve: C. Fine, J. Gay, B. Joyce, J. Mason

Motion unanimously passed (4-0-0).

**Approval of Clerk's Invoice:**

Chair Gay reported that there is no invoice for this month. Clerk Sciascia will circulate one for the Committee's review and approval at their next Committee meeting scheduled in June.

Chair Gay briefly reviewed the process regarding how the Committee meetings are run since it is Cheryl Fine's first meeting since her candidacy.

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

Mercedes Riccuiti reported that there has been another short press release about the Renters Rebate Program in the HK News, the Beachwood Newsletter, the Killingworth Town Page, and AllThingsKillingworth. Mercedes is still in the process of taking applications for the Renters Rebate Program.

Mercedes reported that she is independently moving ahead with seeking support for the UR Community Care Program and is speaking with different churches around Town.

**UR Community Cares Status:**

Chair Gay reported in follow-up from the last Committee meeting, where she spoke with First Selectman Couture, about UR Community Cares. Michelle Puzzo, Executive Director of UR Community Cares, gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen at their May 13th regular meeting. Chair Gay reported that First Selectman Couture indicated that the Board will be moving forward with some sort of donation at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Sandy Allard made a suggestion regarding Mercedes Ricculti's role in an outreach program for UR Community Cares that the Boy Scouts should also be contacted. Chair Gay suggested that Mercedes keep the Board of Selectmen in the process. Mercedes reported that she will be working as a volunteer during this process.

The Committee had further discussion about the \$500 donation that the Beechwood Community received originally thinking that it could only be utilized in their residential Community. After Bill Joyce spoke with the manager at Beechwood, it was agreed that the donation could be utilized on any resident in Killingworth not just a Beechwood resident.

Further discussion took place about who will be in charge of maintaining the budget and handing the funding for the Town of Killingworth in order to run the program for the volunteers/recipients. It was reported that Executive Director, Michelle Puzzo, will be in charge of handling the account.

Motion #2 - Bill Joyce *Moved* and Joyce Mason *Seconded* a motion that the The Committee on Aging will support the UR Community Cares for projects and/or efforts in the Town of Killingworth.

Voting to Approve: C. Fine, J. Gay, B. Joyce, J. Mason

Motion unanimously passed (4-0-0).

**HK Youth and Family Services - Neighbors Helping Neighbors:**

Chair Gay reported about the Neighbors Helping Neighbors for Senior Citizens within the Haddam-Killingworth Community, which is a volunteer run program for families of all ages, and Community service hours available for High School students above the age of 15.

Chair Gay reported that HK Youth and Family Services will pay for family dinners from the food trucks at the Summer Solstice event scheduled on June 20th at Parmalee Farms.

Motion #3 - Joyce Mason *Moved* and Bill Joyce *Seconded* a motion that the Committee on Aging support the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program through Haddam Killingworth Youth and Family Services.

Voting to Approve: C. Fine, J. Gay, B. Joyce, J. Mason

Motion unanimously passed (4-0-0).

Motion #4 - Joyce Mason **Moved** and Bill Joyce **Seconded** a motion that the Committee on Aging continue to work with The Estuary to bring a Medicare roundtable to the Killingworth. The other details, including the date, the time, and the place will be worked out in the future.

Voting to Approve: C. Fine, J. Gay, B. Joyce, J. Mason

Motion unanimously passed (4-0-0).

**Programs and Activities:**

Chair Gay recognized Joyce Mason and Kate Moran for holding a successful Hartford Healthcare's Healthy Brain Program sponsored by the Killingworth Women's Organization. The sessions were led by Hartford HealthCare's Dementia Specialist, Angela Christie. Chair Gay contacted Angela Christie regarding single sessions that the Committee on Aging could sponsor. Chair Gay forwarded the available programs for the Committee's review and future consideration.

Chair Gay further reported that she spoke with Healthier Milardo from The Estuary regarding the possibility of having some Estuary programs to be held in Killingworth. Potential programs include a Medicare round table to discuss Medicare Medigap and Medicare Advantage; 2) Tai Chi Classes - possibly as an individual class or as a group sign up (for future); 3) Writing Thank You Notes Workshop (possibly at the Library.) Chair Gay will follow up with The Board of Selectmen, The Estuary and the Library regarding insurance coverage.

Chair Gay asked Bill Joyce if he could check to see if the Committee could utilize the Beechwood Clubhouse for the Medicare Round Table event. Bill Joyce will confirm and get back to Chair Gay.

Mercedes reported that The Estuary is offering programs such as one dealing with Dementia and Alztemiers and a Caregiver program.

Chair Gay reported on the Activities she circulated to the Committee. She grouped them together in terms of related items noting they don't have to remain in permanent groups. Chair Gay will put this item on the next Committee on Aging meeting agenda.

**Senior Housing:**

Chair Gay recognized the file that Joyce Mason researched regarding Affordable Housing. Joyce Mason identified all the different types of Affordable Housing in the surrounding area.

Chair Gay also reported that Bill Joyce had done research for the Committee regarding Senior Housing, and Senior Housing for people that are disabled. Bill Joyce contacted Suzanne Piacentini, the Field Office Director of the Connecticut US Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, and she provided references. Bill indicated the Committee would also need to go to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in order to apply for a grant.

Bill Joyce reviewed the Senior Housing information with the Committee and what needs to be looked into further including the number of housing units, and where the facility can be built.

Chair Gay and Joyce Mason will meet to develop a document to present to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen.

Motion #5 - Bill Joyce *Moved* and Joyce Mason *Seconded* a motion to present the Committee on Aging's research regarding Senior Housing and Alternative Housing to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen.

Voting to Approve: C. Fine, J. Gay, B. Joyce, J. Mason

Motion unanimously passed (4-0-0).

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

The Committee congratulated Chair Gay on the fantastic work that she accomplished with the River Valley Transit recently adding in a regularly scheduled bus stop at the Beechwood Clubhouse. This would be in lieu of Seniors waiting for the bus on Route 81.

**Next Meeting:** The next Committee on Aging meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2024.

**Adjournment:**

Chair Gay adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia  
Clerk