

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE KILLINGWORTH
COMMITTEE ON AGING
Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall

Members in Attendance: Joan Gay, Joyce Mason, and Ex-officio Member, Mercedes Ricciuti, Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Members Absent: Cheryl Fine, Bill Joyce and Margaret Tobelman

Visitors: Sandy Allard, Kate Moran, Jamie Sciascia

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.

Chair Gay reported that there is a lack of quorum for tonight's meeting; therefore, no motions/votes can be taken.

Communications:

Chair Gay reported that she spoke with Ben Sodergren, the Director from the Library, and there are resources available for the CT Library regarding Audio and Braille Books which are free and available to Seniors. Chair Gay further reported that in case the resources tie into other events Ben Sodergren can contact the State Library. Committee Member, Joyce Mason, reported that in the Town of Clinton this was recently done.

Approval of Minutes:

Due to the Committee not having a quorum, the Approval of the May 22, 2024 Minutes will be added onto the Agenda for the July 24th meeting.

Approval of Clerk's Invoice:

Due to the Committee not having a quorum, the Clerk's invoice will be added onto the Agenda for the July 24th meeting.

Report from Municipal Agent for the Elderly - Mercedes Ricciuti:

Municipal Agent for the Elderly, Mercedes Ricciuti, reported that Renters Rebate is still active. Mercedes further gave a brief update on the Fuel Assistance program, where she assists approximately 60 residents with the application process, noting the requirements change every year.

UR Community Cares Status:

Municipal Agent for the Elderly, Mercedes Ricciuti, reported that she is working on the Outreach program solely as a volunteer. Mercedes further reported that she received a donation of \$500.00

from the Emmanuel Episcopal Church. St. Lawrence Church also recently sent a donation of \$500.00 via regular mail.

Chair Gay reported at the May 28th Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board voted to donate \$500.00 to the UR Community Cares program. Chair Gay read the Minutes to the Committee as well as the motion that was brought forth and unanimously approved:

First Selectman Couture ***Moved*** and Selectman D'Angelo ***Seconded*** a motion to approve \$500.00 from the Community Services Support Line going towards the UR Community Cares in order to support their operation in the Town of Killingworth.

First Selectman Couture thanked Mercedes Ricciuti for all her hard work as well as volunteering her time and for the Committee on Aging for meeting with Michelle Puzzo (UR Community Cares).”

Chair Gay reported that the \$500.00 donation from the Beechwood Community is no longer just for those residents, it is for any Senior located in the Town of Killingworth.

Youth and Family Services Neighbors Helping Neighbors Status:

Chair Gay reported that Youth and Family Services posted online an excellent article regarding Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Alli Behnke is seeking Killingworth volunteers as well as residents that need assistance. Chair Gay asked the Committee if anyone knows a resident or volunteer to reach out to either her or Alli Behnke directly. Committee Member, Joyce Mason, reported that you can go to the Youth and Family Services website and fill out the form. Chair Gay also acknowledged the great work of Youth and Family Services with the Outreach Program.

Affordable and Senior Housing:

Chair Gay reported that she met with Committee Member, Joyce Mason, and they did a lot of research regarding Affordable Senior Housing. Chair Gay researched the National and State Programs and Joyce Mason looked into the surrounding areas of Deep River, Madison, Clinton, Haddam. All information was combined into one document which Chair Gay reviewed with the Committee.

Programs/Activities:

Chair Gay reported that Director of Finance Regolo advised that the Town's insurance coverage only covers programs that are held at the Library, Parmelee Farm, the Fire House or the Town Hall.

Chair Gay further reported that Committee Member, Bill Joyce, followed up with the Beechwood Management and the Club House can only be utilized for Beechwood Residents.

Chair Gay noted The Estuary will work with the COA in scheduling The Estuary's Medicare Roundtable program this coming Fall. The Estuary will include the Killingworth's event in their bulletin and will provide flyers.

Lastly, Chair Gay reported that Angela Christie at The Hartford Healthcare would be happy to come to the Town of Killingworth and hold individual one day sessions for Seniors, noting advance notice would need to be given.

Old Business:

Chair Gay reported that on July 24th at 11:00 a.m the Westbrook Senior Center is holding a program called "Protecting Our Seniors from Scams" provided by Statewide Legal Services of CT. Chair Gay will follow up and contact them for more information.

Chair Gay reported that she would like to start putting the Prioritization List together in terms of three categories (High, Med, Low) and the Committee will discuss input from the other members at their next meeting. Chair Gay asked Clerk Sciascia to keep track of the Committee's responses for the record.

Prioritization List -

It was already discussed, and agreed upon by the Committee, that the Medicare Roundtable was a High priority. A program will be scheduled for the Fall of 2024. Also, discussed as a High priority and agreed upon by the Committee, is a Scam for Seniors. It was determined by the Committee that Hartford Healthcare would be placed under the Dementia category and one of the Single Programs could be scheduled in the fall or later.

Prioritization discussion will continue in July's meeting to obtain input from absent Committee members and Researchers.

Old Business - None.

New Business:

Chair Gay reported that the State Bond Commission approved \$300,000 for the Town Hall Renovation. The State Bond Commission also approved for Chatfield State Park \$500,000 for the Covered Bridge Replacement and \$825,000 for Roadway and Drainage Improvements.

Next Meeting: The next Committee on Aging meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2024.

Chair Gay reported that going forward the remote option for all the meetings, via the GoTo Meetings platform will be used.

The possible cancellation of the August meeting will be discussed at the next Committee meeting in July.

Adjournment:

Chair Gay adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk