

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON AGING
Wednesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Killingworth Town Hall

Members in Attendance: Bill Joyce (Chair), Ellen Oppenheimer, Amy Roberts-Perry, Cheryl Fine (Arrived at 6:17 p.m.), and Ex-officio Member, Mercedes Ricciuti (Municipal Agent for the Elderly)

Members Absent: None.

Staff in Attendance: Jamie Sciascia (Clerk/Via Remote)

Visitors: Lucy Kinnane (Arrived at 6:03 p.m.)

Called to Order: The meeting was Called to Order at 6:04 p.m. by Bill Joyce, Chair

Roll Call: Chairman Joyce took a Roll Call of all Members and Visitors in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Approval of the Minutes from the December 17, 2025 Meeting:

Motion #1 - Amy Roberts-Perry *Moved* and Ellen Oppenheimer *Seconded* a motion to approve the Minutes from the Committee on Aging Regular Meeting that was held on December 17, 2025.

Voting to Approve: B. Joyce, E. Oppenheimer, A. Roberts-Perry

Motion unanimously passed (3-0-0).

Approval of Clerk's Invoice:

Motion #2 - Amy Roberts-Perry *Moved* and Ellen Oppenheimer *Seconded* a motion to approve the Clerk's Invoice in the amount of \$70.00 as presented.

Voting to Approve: B. Joyce, E. Oppenheimer, A. Roberts-Perry

Motion unanimously passed (3-0-0).

Old Business from the last meeting:

Chairman Joyce reported that there has been no response received from Mr. Wettish. The Committee discussed existing deed restrictions on the town-owned athletic field property and related limitations on use.

New Business:

a. Review of Committee Financial Budget submitted to Town Hall

Chairman Joyce and Clerk Sciascia provided an update on the Committee's budget and remaining funds. The Committee's FY budget remains \$2,400. As of the meeting, expenditures include two approved clerk invoices (one for \$150 and one in the amount of \$70), as well as the \$200 database purchase from today (see motion below). The remaining balance is approximately \$1,980.

Chairman Joyce noted that the Committee has been encouraged to more fully utilize its budget to avoid future reductions. He also reported that the \$2,400 budget request for the next fiscal year has been submitted to Town Hall. Chairman Joyce briefly spoke about the Committee's grant research efforts and

letter-writing activities, which Clerk Sciascia agreed to undertake going forward, and noted that this work will utilize additional budgeted funds.

b. Discussion of Grant Application Opportunities for Affordable and Senior Housing

The Committee discussed ongoing affordable housing projects in Killingworth, noting that these are general affordable housing initiatives and separate from the Committee's focus on senior housing. Chairman Joyce emphasized the Committee's interest in supporting research and grant opportunities specifically for affordable senior housing. To facilitate this, Chairman Joyce and Ellen Oppenheimer met with the head librarian, Ben Sodergren, to explore available resources and potential support through the Library and also to obtain access to the Senior Affordable Housing Grant Database. Ms. Oppenheimer advised Clerk Sciascia that she had initiated contact with the library to explore assistance, including the possibility of involving an intern or student to help with research tasks in case Clerk Sciascia needs a contact person. Once the database is received, Sciascia will utilize the Affordable Senior Housing Database for research, and any emails or letters drafted for grant applications will be sent to the Committee for review and approval prior to distribution. Chairman Joyce noted that there was a \$200 allocation to gain access to said database.

Motion #3 - Ellen Oppenheimer *Moved* and Amy Roberts-Perry *Seconded* a motion that the Committee on Aging allocate \$200.00 for an Affordable Senior Housing Database, that will be housed at the Library, for research for grants and other financial opportunities.

Voting to Approve: B. Joyce, C. Fine, E. Oppenheimer, A. Roberts-Perry

Motion unanimously passed (4-0-0).

Clerk Sciascia gave an update to the Committee on the following: 1) Ford Foundation - Sciascia submitted an inquiry since no funding opportunities for senior affordable housing are currently available, and no response has been received to date; 2) Guinness Foundation: Clerk Sciascia reported that the response from Mr. MacDonald was received indicating that the Guinness organization does not provide funding for North American projects; 3) Dodge Foundation: Clerk Sciascia will research this further and provide an update to the Committee.

c. Legislative and Policy Updates from the State Capitol in Hartford

Chairman Joyce reported on the status of State Senator Christine Cohen involving the property across from 400 Roast Meat Hill Road with photos and a map provided for reference. The Committee is awaiting a response from Cohen regarding property status and access, which is under State/DEEP oversight. DEEP recently placed markers on the land, prompting discussion of state ownership, access considerations, wildlife corridors, and long-term land use. Further clarification from DEEP was recommended.

Next Meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026 at 6:00 PM:

Chairman Joyce reported that the next Committee on Aging meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment: Chairman Joyce adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sciascia
Clerk