Minutes of the Commission on Aging Monthly Meeting
March 2, 2022

Attendees: Robert Berman, Haleesteen Graham Days, Marie MacDonald, Pat Miller, Barbara Reisner, Jeannette Rivers, Leon Rivers, Shirley Thompson, Peter Wilcox

Guests: Marie Bendzans and Yvette Huyghue-Pannell (Senior Services Liaisons)

Absent: Susan Odoms

The meeting, which was held both in-person and via Zoom, was called to order at 12:36 pm.

A moment of silence was observed for Doris Armstrong, who served on the Commission from 2007-2018.

Old Business:
The AARP Tax Aide program has been working well. All appointments for the current season have been taken and there is now a wait list.

The new weekly wellness screenings program with a West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District nurse will begin on Tuesday, March 8 (10:30 am - 1:00 pm).

The St. Patrick’s Day drive-through luncheon on Wednesday, March 16 has sold out and is now on wait list.

Last month Yvette noted that someone had expressed an interest in participating on the Commission and asked if meetings could be held in the evening. That individual’s personal situation has changed and she has withdrawn her request. However, a vote was still taken. All in favor of having evening meetings: 0; all opposed: 9.

Reminder that 2023 budget presentations will begin on Thursday, March 10. The Senior Services and Commission on Aging presentations will take place on Thursday, March 17. All sessions will begin at 7:00 pm and will be held in the Great Room of Human Services Center. There will be a limited number of printed budget books available, and the information will also be online. Suggestions for the COA budget: it might be nice to do some sort of “give-a-way” similar to the File of Life that has been done in the past.

New Business:
Peter saw an interview regarding fair rent commissions and noted that Bloomfield has one. It has had a limited number of meetings over the past year. He asked if information about the commission could be put in the Senior Services monthly newsletter. COA members expressed an interest in knowing more about it. Yvette will check into the possibility of having someone come and speak.

Question was asked if anyone knows when the Committee on Committees is going to meet. Bob doesn’t think it will happen until after the budget process takes place because that process is so time-consuming. It was noted that the Committee has put out a call for volunteers.
Public Comments:
The next Aging Mastery Program will begin on Monday, April 4. So far, nearly 100 individuals have completed the program in Bloomfield.

Tickets are on sale for a Mother’s Day celebration at the Simsbury Inn on Monday, May 2. Seating is limited.

Plans are currently underway for a pre-Juneteenth celebration on Thursday, June 17.

White Flower Farm generously donated 500 amaryllis bulbs to the Senior Center last month, which were then distributed to Bloomfield residents on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Peter made a motion to approve the January and February minutes. Bob seconded. The minutes for both months are approved.

Leon made a motion was made to adjourn; Halesteen seconded. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm.

The next meeting will take place at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, April 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Miller
Secretary