



AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION

Special Meeting – March 19, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Eno Memorial Hall – Youth Room IN PERSON

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

Ed LaMontagne, Jan Beatty, Margaret Haldeman, Cheryl Cook, Libby Easton-May, Sandee Fleet, Mike Jennings, Kate Robbins, Jen Seiderer, Anne Erickson, and Kathleen Marschall (Senior Center Coordinator)

EXCUSED

Terry Henault, Deb Glass, Claire Corbett, Diana Yeisley

ABSENT

Robin Batchelder

CALL TO ORDER: Ed LaMontagne, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge was recited.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE/PUBLIC COMMENT

No public audience or public comment provided.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting of February 20, 2024

Correction was noted by Jan Beatty with respect to the Age-Friendly Community section. The minutes will be corrected to reflect Prof. Ellis Dillon's title and role as facilitator for the focus groups.

Cheryl Cook moved to accept the minutes with corrections. Kate Robbins seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted with corrections.

BOS LIAISON REPORT

No report as Diana Yeisley, BOS liaison, was attending another town obligation.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Kathleen Marschall, Senior Center Coordinator, noted the only elevator in Eno Hall is still out of service while being replaced. Service began February 20th and will likely continue until early

May. Ramps have been installed at the front of the building. Programs and meetings have been moved to accommodate this disruption. Kathy offered copies of the latest newsletter "The Senior Communicator" which highlights programs, issues, and services for older adults in Simsbury.

Of note:

Bingo 3/25 1:30

Sponsored by McLean

Intergenerational Magic Show 4/11 6:30

Lyn Dillies, Highest awarded female illusionist in the country

Senior Medicare Patrol 4/18 1:30

Medicare fraud, errors and abuse

Kathy also noted that **4/14-20 is Volunteer Appreciation Week** and expressed her appreciation for all the volunteers that donate their time and skills.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Jan Beatty reported the final arrangements for the three focus groups.

April 24 at McLean (Goodrich Building), 7-8:30pm

April 26 at the Library (Weatogue Room), 2-3:30pm

April 27 at Trinity Episcopal (Tariffville), 10:30-12

Prof. Ellis Dillon, UConn Center for Aging, will be facilitating the focus groups.

Those participating can call the Sr. Center or email the address that Kate Robbins has established.

Promotion for focus group sign-ups will be through the McLean newsletter, Tariffville Village Assoc., Facebook, and other outlets starting around 4/8.

Jan noted the AARP Roadmap to Livability Community Listening Session Tool Kit.

PROGRAMS

- Spring Movie Event – Plan is to have a sensory-friendly movie event, with *Luca*, on March 24 at 2:00 at the library with snacks. Jen Seiderer posted the flyer on Facebook and emailed to previous attendees.
 - Only two RSVPs so far
- Picnic at the Farms – July 20th at Simsbury Farms Ice Rink, 6-8pm. Margaret Haldeman is working with Kathy Marschall on logistics, funding, entertainment.
 - Musician Dan Reiser and magician Paul Kilmer are confirmed for the picnic. Libby Easton-May suggested asking them to discount their fees.
 - Kathy Marschall noted that we do have \$1000 budgeted for the picnic.
 - Contact has been made with library, Best Buddies and Unified Theatre at the High School, and with the Y for help with activities at the picnic
 - Pure Love has committed to 80 cupcakes (gluten-free)
 - With respect to food and financial assistance, requests have been made at Big Y, Geisler's, Stop & Shop, Antonio's, The Lions Club and the Jr Women's Club. Follow-up is needed.
 - Plan to ask First Church for funding

- Souper Thursday, May 9th
 - Ed LaMontagne announced a \$1000 donation from Simsbury/Granby Rotary to fund the Souper Thursday events.
 - Cheryl Cook reported that Antonio's has agreed to provide a sandwich, soup and dessert for 60 at \$8/person, delivered.
 - Asking about flatware, etc.
 - RSVPs from attendees expected about a week prior
 - Volunteers needed. Ed will ask Rotarians.
 - Ed noted that Terry Henault and Deb Glass may be able to contact Antonio's about menu specifics.
 - Typical number of participants 40-60/lunch
- Finances
 - Ed LaMontagne noted that with the Rotary donations the Aging and Disability Commission Donation Account has a balance of \$924.73

OLD BUSINESS

- Commission Brochure
 - Kate Robbins has shared the latest version of the brochure. A few questions about Simsbury TV were resolved. Some needed edits are:
 - the contact info for the Medical Equipment Loan Locker should email, simsburyloanlocker@gmail.com. Mike Jennings' picture needs to be flipped.
 - Town Seal use is approved for 100 copies.
- Aging & Disability Resource List
 - **Live and posted**
 - https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf9751/f/uploads/aging_and_disability_commission_resource_list.pdf
 - Jen Seiderer posed a question about updates. Updates will be managed quarterly. Corrections will be handled ASAP. Jen is now working on how best to produce a hard copy of this largely digital material for use at the library.
- Affordable Housing Update
 - Cheryl Cook reported on the progress in creating the **Housing Advisory Committee** comprised of members of relevant existing commissions
 - Jen Seiderer is the A&D representative and Jan Beatty is the alternate
 - Cheryl Cook (Chair of the Simsbury Housing Authority Board of Commissioners) noted that the Simsbury Housing Authority (SHA) is not represented on the towns Housing Advisory Committee.
 - Cheryl shared that she and several others helped State Rep. Osborne apply for a federal grant to benefit the SHA (application was prepared and submitted in 5 hours). The application was approved for \$640K. Additional information will be needed and will be managed by Christine Winters (Exec. Dir. of Simsbury Housing Authority)
 - Cheryl also reported that the Vessel properties project has been approved for three stories along with other design changes

- including up to 8 affordable units
 - Discussion also included the fate of the Hartford property
 - Zoning Bd to change Inclusive Housing as part of their deliberations
 - Comments on Missing Middle- between single family home and high density and Pathway to Ownership
 - Comment from Mike Jennings about the segment that doesn't want to own (transitional)
 - Comment from Jan Beatty about AARP asset about "Middle Housing"
- Spring Seminar
 - Ed LaMontagne reported on the **Services for Seniors Forum** on Tues 4/9 at SPL 1:30 – 3:00pm. The forum will include Simsbury Steps to Safety Program, a presentation about the Simsbury Loan Locker and a report on the Age-Friendly Community process.
 - Four RSVPs as of today- what should minimum be? deadline 4/4
 - Promotion includes sharing poster, Facebook, The Senior Communicator, etc.
 - Ed will ask Library about promotion
- Simsbury Social Connections Project
 - The Commission will be a sponsor for the For All Ages Social Connections Program. Training/brainstorming sessions will occur on 3/23 @2-3:30 p.m., 4/18 @6-7:30 p.m. and 5/11 @ 3-4:30 p.m.
 - Margaret Haldeman and Libby Easton-May will attend all three
 - Anne Erickson will attend 4/18 and 5/11
 - Terry Henault will attend 3/23 and 4/18
 - Ed LaMontagne will be representing the Simsbury/Granby Rotary Club
 - Cheryl Cook commented on the program at the library: Human Library, 3/23, 10-2

NEW BUSINESS

- **Handicap Parking Awareness month - June**
 - Ed LaMontagne stated that a video was run by Simsbury Community Media in the past.
 - Ed reported that in the past the Police Dept. promoted the month and the Board of Selectmen issued a proclamation.
 - Facebook posts using photos from Mike Jennings that illustrating handicap parking issues will be used on Facebook

ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned without objection at 7:15pm

Next meeting: April 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Eno Memorial Hall

Submitted by:

Margaret Haldeman