TOWN OF STONINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING

<u>Members in attendance</u>: Stacy Cassata, Sue Peglow, Susan Sedensky, Jennifer Young, Gisela Harma, Chris Morren, Marty Booker, Marilyn Riley, Nancy Houlihan

Human Services Representative: None

Town of Stonington Selectman: None.

Meeting called to order by Stacy Cassata at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report

- a) Minutes from February 1, 2023 reviewed. Sue Peglow made a motion to approve, Marty Booker seconded. Minutes accepted
- b) Correspondence
 - Letter of resignation from the COA from former member, RJ Connelly.

Finance Report

a) Sue Peglow presented the February finance report. (Attached). Motion made to accept. Expenses for dolls or stuffed pets for dementia facilities will be added to future budget.

Outside Agencies Programs/Events

- a) Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and MGI Speaker Series scheduled for April and May. Each 90-minute program will include lunch. Funds approved in 2022 budget remain because of cancellations. Sue Sedensky offered that the PNC will purchase and provide receipt for reimbursement. Booklets ordered last year will be used. For additional expenses, Chris Morren will notify Leanne at Human Services.
- b) PACE- Jenn Young shared the 2022 PACE annual report which was circulated. PACE is a national program with the objective of keeping participants healthy and independent as much as possible. CT does not have a PACE program although CT residents can access the adult day care programs in Westerly. Jenn pointed out the beautiful illustrations, Scenes of Rhode Island, that were done by PACE employee Erin Sullivan.
- c) COA has participated in fundraising walks in the past (e.g., Elder Abuse, Alzheimers) PNC is participating in the Hunger Awareness walk in Hartford on May 20. All members were invited to participate. Walk will be advertised.
- d) Stonington Arms is sponsoring a Mobile Health Hub with an Urgent Care Clinic by Hartford HealthCare on March 27 10am-2pm at Stonington Arms Housing. Services include health screenings, vaccinations, lab testing, and consultation with medical staff. Other Community Resources will be available such as energy assistance, insurance assistance, primary care appointments, etc.

Legislative Updates —

a) Chris Morren shared some of the legislation that impact seniors. Most were deferred to state Commission on Aging but access to that information is difficult to locate. Below is a list of some Acts proposed in the legislature. See New Business below

- Socialization Act that provides transportation funds for nursing home residents to visit family
- Act to support for non-parent family members raising children (grandparents)
- Act to encourage Long Term Care Insurance
- Act to address air conditioning in nursing homes
- Act to find a study of needs of senior citizens (e.g., nutrition, quality of life)
- Act supporting loans to qualified seniors to pay real estate taxes
- Act on work force development for health care workers, esp CNAs to address the shortage across the state

Old Business

- a) Dolls for dementia units were purchased and reimbursement from Human Services was efficient. Dolls were distributed. The idea of stuffed pets might be an alternative or addition to dolls in future
- b) Stacy reported that RJ Connelly has resigned from the COA, creating a vacancy. Members are asked to recommend new members.

New Business

- a) Chris Morren reported that he attended a town meeting with state representatives Heather Somers and Greg Howard to discuss State of CT Commission on Aging. Chris will follow up with them to learn more about the process for commission follow-up with the legislation and to make them aware that the town COA is interested in supporting senior issues, especially affordable housing concerns.
- b) COA Chair position- Stacy reported that with RJ Connely's resignation as chair, a new chair needs to be identified. She has acted as co-chair but the work is conflicting with her extensive personal commitments. She asks that members consider volunteering to serve as chair.

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Adjournment — Motion to adjourn made by Gisela Harma, motion seconded by Sue Peglow. Meeting adjourned at 5p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

Minutes submitted by COA Secretary, Nancy Houlihan

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JOURNAL DETAIL 2023 1 TO 2023 13

|TOWN OF STONINGTON |YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

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FOR 2023 13

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|TOWN OF STONINGTON |YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

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Year/Period: 2023/13 Print MTD Version: N

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Amounts/totals exceed 999 million dollars: N

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Office of the First Selectman

Town of Stonington

152 Elm Street

Stonington, CT 06378

(860) 535-5050 (Office)

From: RJ Connelly <rj@connellylaw.com> Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 9:49 AM To: Stacey Haskell <shaskell@stonington-ct.gov>

Subject: RE: COA and terms expired

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Stonington. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Haskell:

Unfortunately, due to time constraints and other pressing obligation I feel I must resign as a member and co-chair of the Stonington Commission on Aging. I apologize for the late notice, but have been trying to work it out to no avail. It has been a pleasure working with you all and an honor to serve on the board. I will remain available should you need my help.

Thanks,

RJ

Thanks,

RJ



R.J. Connelly III, CELA CONNELLY LAW OFFICES, Ltd. Certified Elder Law Attorney

(401):724-9400 Work ர@connellylaw.com.

372 Broadway Pawtucket, RI 02860

Pawtucket Office - Main office 372 Broadway