

**Commission on Aging  
Special Meeting  
Marlborough Senior Center  
Thursday, March 16, 2023  
11:00 AM**

*Minutes are considered "draft minutes" until approved at the following meeting*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Colleen Kaplan called the meeting to order at 11:10am. Members present were Donna Mosher, Colleen Kaplan, and Barbara Armfield.

Absent: Karen Currier, Rita McGary, Sarah Cameron, Melissa Jordan

Also present: Vi Schwarzmans, Senior Center Director, Ray Bull, Parks and Recreation Director, and Betty O'Brien, Board of Selectmen.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Barbara A made a motion, seconded by Donna M to accept minutes from January 18 2023 and February 15, 2023. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

**3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA- None**

**4. UPDATES- SENIOR CENTER AND PARKS AND RECREATION**

Vi Schwarzmans reported the following regarding the Senior Center:

- On March 16th, 3 people signed up to attend the Aging With a Purpose program being held at Goodwin College in East Hartford.
- AARP Driver Safety program being held in May, Vi will need to be able to use the white board, needs a cable to set up to use it. She will look into getting this functional.
- The American Red Cross would like to hold a Fire Safety program for interested seniors in town. This involves a sign-up to have a representative come to the participant's home to assess fire safety on one's home. Vi will put this in the RiverEast.
- Vi reminds all that it is "donation" time for AHM, they no longer do a Telethon.
- Vi reminds all that income tax assistance is available by signing up at the Senior Center. Vi reports that many have already signed up.

Ray Bull reported the following regarding Parks and Recreation:

- The tennis courts down at Blish Memorial Park are being re-done to include the addition of four pickle-ball courts.
- Ray and Vi got together to discuss future trips to plan. Ray contacted Colette Tour Trips for ideas for "big ticket " tours possible, also more day trips possible this summer. More information to come.

**5. FIELD TRIP - AGAIN WITH A PURPOSE AT GOODWIN COLLEGE**

As reported by Vi, 3 people signed up to use the senior van to get to this speaker series in East Hartford. This was the second in a series of four. Colleen will put the next two events in the RiverEast, with the same option of transportation being available.

**6. MISSION STATEMENT IDEAS**

Due to many members of the Commission being absent, this discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Colleen asks that all members come prepared to discuss ideas to create a draft statement at the next meeting.

**7. UPDATE - QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH OTHER AREA COA**

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The chairperson of the East Hampton COA emails other COAs to determine interest in getting the quarterly meetings of area COAs started again. This had been going on prior to the COVID pandemic. Colleen volunteered to host the first meeting and asked for possible dates to propose to the other COAs. We felt we should stay away from dates when school vacations were scheduled. Also, Vi requested we not use Wednesdays. Our members stated the following dates would be good for them: April Mondays-17, 24; April Thursdays- 6,20,27. Possible dates in May would be Mondays- 1,8,15,22 and Thursdays 4,11,18, 25. Colleen will contact the other COAs to come up with a mutually convenient day. Other COAs that we would want to invite include similar, small towns such as Salem, Montville, Columbia, Andover, and Lebanon.

**8. REVIEW OF SUGGESTIONS FROM PUBLIC**

A email from Karen Wilkinson, who alerted us to the Goodwin College speaker series, also included some other ideas for us to consider for activities for the 50+ age group in town: walking trails, ideas for The Sustainable CT initiative such as a pollinator discussion, volunteering for the Marlborough Needs Alliance, a technology program to help all of us with technology information/assistance, lectures- food, good nutrition, camp hemlocks, dancing nights, partner with the Friends of the Library for more ideas. She shared a link to a site for more ideas: <https://www.arborcompany.com/blog/14-activities-for-elderly-people-that-arent-boring>  
<https://www.greatseniorliving.com/articles/fun-activities-for-seniors>

**9. RIVEREAST- OUR OWN STATEMENT**

We will have our own news corner in the Rivereast. Ideas for inclusion were made: next two speaker events at Goodwin College, a pool tournament, a band for our next event, visiting other senior centers, Do You Know topics: pickleball courts, town tax assessor assistance, senior center has greeting cards available for small fee (\$ .25 ), pool table available, list of helping groups in town.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diane Dunn- Saner Rd, Programs available at Wickham Park, every 2nd Tuesday, 10am, "Tea and Talk", \$5.00, of interest to seniors. She would like to see information on aging in place such as Dupont Village- helping people in need, lists of help others can use, maybe joining groups to help each other, "Aging in Place" network.

Mark Paul- 17 East Lake Rd, here to observe the process.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Barbara A. made a motion to adjourn at 12:20. It was seconded by Donna Mosher. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Kaplan, Chair, Commission on Aging.