

Branford Commission of Services for the Elderly

Laurie Rockwell – Chair
Jean Richo
Patricia B. Torre

Patricia Brownell - Co-Chair
Luba Mebert Schmid
Mary Hahn

Dana Murphy
Ellen Carucci
Alpha Coiro

Meeting Minutes November 17, 2022

Call to Order - The Zoom Meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm by Chair Laurie Rockwell. Also present: Pat Brownell, Alpha Coiro, Ellen Carucci and Pat Torre. Director Dagmar Ridgway and Activities Coordinator Nancy Cohen were also in attendance.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting September 8, 2022 – On a motion by Ellen Carucci and Seconded by Alpha Coiro, the minutes were unanimously approved.
- II. The Meeting Schedule for 2023 was presented. Meetings will be February 9, May 11, September 7, and November 16, 2023. On a motion by Pat Torre, seconded by Ellen Carucci, the schedule was unanimously approved.
- III. Dagmar Ridgway presented the Director's Report. Reports will be emailed to Commissioners. Dagmar reviewed the Financials and staff vacancy. Interest earnings are improving, and she has no current concerns regarding expense accounts. She reviewed statistics and participation is bouncing back. There were 6 distributions of food boxes in the Fall. Donations are down a bit which is to be expected. Regarding Transportation, all vehicles are on the road and the center is using our vehicles for trips and mini trips because the use of the large buses is cost prohibitive. They will start specking out a vehicle to replace bus 494. Dagmar addressed some building issues. All three grants that were applied for have been granted. Upcoming programs for 2023 pertaining to these grants include Exercise for Better Balance, Meditation Relaxation Plus and Kinema Fit for Seniors, which incorporates technology with fitness. Dagmar is still working with the State coalition. As for Social Services, there is no formal report. With the heating season well underway, Medicare Review time and a staff vacancy, it is an extremely busy time. There is a good deal of anxiety, and people desire face to face meetings and conversation.
- IV. Nancy Cohen spoke of some upcoming Program Activities including: A change in Tech Help days, the Hanukkah Dinner's return, Fire Chief Mahoney's talk on Code Red, The Holiday Shop, Midnight at Noon (on 12/28), the Rotary Club dinner and some great trips coming up. Alpha Coiro thanked Nancy for the wonderful handicrafts available at the Holiday Shop, indicating the high quality of the merchandise available and recommended everyone to check out the offerings!
- V. Citizen's Comments – Jean DeRiso was present for the meeting, and stated she was glad to be there and felt better publicity regarding the meeting would be beneficial.
- VI. On a motion by Alpha Coiro, seconded by Pat Brownell, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted by Doreen F. Denhardt, Commission Clerk.