

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 September 9, 2021

Call to Order - The Zoom Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Chair Laurie Rockwell. Also present: Pat Torre, Pat Brownell, Ellen Carucci, Jean Richo , Alpha Coiro and Dana Murphy. Director Dagmar Ridgway and Activities Coordinator Nancy Cohen were in attendance.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting May 13, 2021 – On a motion by Alpha Coiro and Seconded by Dana Murphy, the minutes were unanimously approved.
- II. Dagmar Ridgway presented the Director’s Report. Dagmar addressed a variety of topics including a new Staff Addition (Meghan Cunningham), a budget update, the status of the replacement bus (chassis will be built and she is expecting delivery by late December), and Medical Transportation (Safety evaluations, masks are required, logistical issues to maintain distance and the need for Volunteer drivers). The center is always grateful for the generous donations received, especially \$2000 from the Homemaker’s Thrift Shop and the gift of a Baby Grand Piano. The Vital Connections program continues along with many other opportunities Nancy will discuss. September is National Senior Center month and the theme is “Age Well”.
- III. Nancy Cohen discussed Programming Activities. So many activities are In Person again. The Pen Pal Program is returning, as is the Tap Dancing Group, Triad programs, Meet the Movers & Shakers of Branford (On 9/22, we are welcoming Judge Forgione of the Probate Court!), and Walking and Hiking trips. A flu Shot Clinic, Genealogy session and Tuesday afternoon “tours” sponsored by the Senior Learning Network are also on our schedule.
- IV. Social Services are being addressed by Marlowe and Nicole, who is back from leave. The Rental Rebate program is wrapping up. Farmer’s Market vouchers are available. 98 booklets have been distributed so far. Preparation is under way for the Energy Assistance program to begin. It is a bit different this year, as there is no asset test. Eligibility is based strictly on income. (One Person = \$39027 limit and Two Person = \$51035). There are many other financial resources available to all residents. The Food Boxes Program was a great success with over 112,000 pounds of food delivered! We are hoping it will return.
- V. Citizen’s Comments – None present.
- VI. On a motion from Patty Torre, Seconded by Ellen Carucci, by unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2021. It will be conducted via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted by Doreen F. Denhardt, Commission Clerk.