

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 16, 2023

Call to Order - The Zoom Meeting was called to order at 4:58 pm by Chair Laurie Rockwell with an introduction by the Commissioners present. Present: Pat Brownell, Jean Richo, Ellen Carucci, and Pat Torre. Director Dagmar Ridgway and Activities Coordinator Nancy Cohen were also in attendance.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the September 7, 2023 Meeting – Item V is to be corrected as follows: “The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2023.” On a motion by Ellen Carucci and Seconded by Pat Torre, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.
- II. The 2024 Meeting Schedule – was reviewed. The proposed dates are: February 8, May 9, September 12, and November 14, 2024. Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom. On a motion by Pat Brownell, seconded by Ellen Carucci, the schedule was unanimously approved.
- III. Dagmar Ridgway presented the Director’s Report and the Social Services Report. No written reports due to staffing shortages/absences. Rental Rebate Program is pretty much completed, having processed over 300 applications (for approximately \$150,000). A special “Thank You!” to Pat Torre for her invaluable assistance and organizational skills! Energy Season is now upon us and about 110 applications have already been received. People are reminded to apply for programs directly with utilities, such as Eversource and Southern CT Gas for supplemental relief. A Thank You to Nancy and the Crafters for a very successful Election Day Craft Fair, where some wonderful boutique-quality items were available for sale. The Annual Report needs to be completed. Meghan Cunningham has resigned and will be missed by not only the staff but so very many members of the center. Staffing issues are being addressed.
- IV. Nancy Cohen discussed Programming Activities. The Election Day Craft Fair raised \$1467.50! The credit card machine helped to boost sales. There will be Holiday Shops on November 27 and December 14. A lot of activities are coming up: New member orientation on Monday, annual Hanukah dinner, the return of the make up artist, memory screening, Midnight at Noon, Rotary Holiday Dinner, a UCONN basketball game, a hike and art classes. The Newsletter is coming out tomorrow.
- V. Jean Richo commented on the great job the staff is doing considering the staffing shortage.
- VI. Citizen’s Comments – None.
- VII. On a motion from Pat Brownell, Seconded by Pat Torre, by unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by Doreen F. Denhardt, Commission Clerk.