

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 7, 2023

Call to Order - The Zoom Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Chair Laurie Rockwell with an introduction of the Commissioners present. Present: Pat Brownell, Jean Richo, Ellen Carucci, and Alpha Coiro. Director Dagmar Ridgway, Activities Coordinator Nancy Cohen and First Selectman Cosgrove were also in attendance.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting November 17, 2022 – On a motion by Ellen Carucci and Seconded by Alpha Coiro, the minutes were unanimously approved.
- II. Dagmar Ridgway presented the Director’s Report. No written reports due to staffing shortages/absences. Things are getting done, but it is challenging. The Newsletter is also a bit delayed. A lot of new members – numbers are crazy! Close to 3000 members and the email list is about 1500. Lots of people who use the social services do not belong (you don’t have to-just be a Branford resident). The Center’s fee structure, membership guidelines and inclusion policies were discussed. The 1st Selectmen discussed space concerns and issues with groups being denied access to meeting rooms. This topic was covered in great detail. The Annual Report needs to be completed. Socials Services was also addressed at this time, including but not limited to the Rental Rebate Program (letters have gone out and the process has been streamlined) and Medical Renewal is Oct/Nov/December. Hardship protection programs begin in November. Energy Assistance is being worked on. The 1st Selectman extensively addressed concerns regarding non-residents participating in Canoe Brook programs.
- III. Nancy Cohen discussed Programming Activities. Started Improve with Improv and everyone had a blast! Bring back Tech Help and started the Author’s Corner. There is a Book Club along with a variety on new activities and upcoming events. The Senior Learning Network is in full swing and the Triad Program is going strong.
- IV. Citizen’s Comments – None.
- V. On a motion from Pat Brownell, Seconded by Jean Richo, by unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted by Doreen F. Denhardt, Commission Clerk.