

# *Branford Commission of Services for the Elderly*

Laurie Rockwell – Chair  
Anita Visentin Perito – Vice Chair  
Patricia B. Torre

Patricia Brownell  
Susan Cosgrove Barnes  
Mary Hahn

Dana Murphy  
Luba Mebert Schmid  
Jean Richo

## **Meeting Minutes November 16, 2017**

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm at the Branford Fire Department by Chair Laurie Rockwell. Roll Call: Jean Richo, Anita Visentin Perito, Luba Mebert Schmid, Laurie Rockwell, Patricia Torre, Mary Hahn, Patricia Brownell and Susan Cosgrove Barnes. Also in attendance: Director Dagmar Ridgway and Activities Coordinator Nancy Cohen.

- I. Approval of the Minutes - Motion to Approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting by Pat Torre, seconded by Mary Hahn. Vote to approve: Unanimous.
- II. Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2018 – Six Meetings scheduled for 2018. A motion to approve by Patricia Brownell, seconded by Susan Cosgrove Barnes. Vote to approve: Unanimous.
- III. Director's Report was presented by Director Ridgway. It included the Financial Report, Statistics, and a Staffing Update. Several Building issues were addressed, and the cleaning out of the basement is underway. Ground Breaking was held on October 27, 2017 and the Renovation Project has begun! Administrative and software updates are proceeding. There is an active recruitment effort for more Medical Transportation Drivers, the Walsh Pool is once again open, the AMP Session will begin in January (Anthem is now partnering to keep the fees low!) and the Annual Report needs to be completed.
- IV. Social Services Report was presented by Director Ridgway and she spoke of the changes in the Medicare Savings Program and its devastating effects on Seniors. It is a priority of the Staff to address their needs and concerns. The Fuel Assistance Program is well underway, but the state's budget crisis has caused a lot of problems for those who benefit from the Rent Rebate Program. Checks have been delayed and are finally in process by OPM by amounts are unknown.
- V. Programming/Activities Report was presented by Nancy Cohen. Among the many topics addressed: The WIS Pool is re-opened, the Election Day Craft Fair was a success (over \$1000 raised to date!) and Pop Up shopping and Holiday Shops will continue for the season. Nancy spoke of some wonderful upcoming opportunities such as Coffee with a Cop, Annual Chanukah Dinner, Tree Decorating, the Rotary Club Dinner, Christmas Luncheon and Midnight at Noon. Many thanks to the VNA as the Better Balance Program that is coming to a close was wonderful and benefited many members.
- VI. Comment box – was not checked prior to the meeting.
- VII. Citizen's Comments – George Dwyer briefly addressed the Commission.

A motion to Adjourn at 6:00 was made by Anita Visentin Perito, seconded by Pat Brownell and was followed by a Unanimous vote to approve. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted by Doreen F. Denhardt, Commission Clerk

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