MEMBERS PRESENT
Karen Brecher
Kathy Sobieski
Maureen Lynch
Mary Udice
Jerilyn Nagel
Terri Lapenta-Duffek

MEMBERS ABSENT
Patricia Hanbury
Sandy Nafis

STAFF
Dianne Stone
Jaime Trevethan
Gail Whitney

TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS
Gail Budrejko

TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS ABSENT
Carol Anest

I. CALL TO ORDER
Karen Brecher called the Commission on Aging and Disabled meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Gail Budrejko welcomed everyone back after the summer.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2019
The Commissioners approved the minutes of June 5, 2019.

V. STAFF REPORT
Dianne commented on the passing of Therese Nadeau and what a wonderful, accomplished woman she was and her dedication to the disabled community. The Center and Commission sent flowers in her memory. Karen Brecher’s father passed away and the Center and Commission made a memorial donation to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Dianne reported that the garden has done well over the summer and has donated a lot of fruits and vegetables to the Newington Food Bank. The garden volunteers also have found a way to curtail the critter problem they had last year. Netting went over and around all plantings. Newington’s Engineering Department will be taking measurements to install a concrete pathway to the garden. Garden volunteers are always welcome.
The Lyft initiative began. This program has a goal to create awareness, education, training, and opportunities to get people to use Lyft. The goal is to enroll 150 people by October 1st; so far 45 are enrolled. Two Lyft and Learn sessions have been held, with another one scheduled for Monday. Lyft and Lunch was held on Friday and had four participants; all systems were tested in the use of the system for the Lyft and Lunch program. People are getting interested and $10 coupons have been distributed to attract attention. Patty Foley recorded the last Lyft and Learn session to be aired on NCTV. Erica from the Newington Town Crier/The Herald will be writing an article about the program for the newspapers.

Many programs that the Center has piloted have become very popular; for example mindfulness and ukulele. Coffee Talk was held again with State Representative Gary Turco; there were 27 people in attendance. Other programs over the summer were how to stay hydrated, annual pool party at Mill Pond, Let It Go (mindfulness), AARP held a program on electric choices, the annual public safety picnic on August 28 – the Newington Police Department has sponsored this picnic over the years but were unable to do so this year so the Newington Fire Department sponsored the picnic. Evidence based programs are planned for the fall: Aging Mastery, Matter of Balance, Tai Chi, Caregivers. The Aging Mastery program is held here at the Center, however there may be a class held on Wednesday evenings at CCSU. The Live Well with Diabetes program is held at the Center, however not a Center program – the facility is available should the people who run this want to continue to hold it at the Center. A Chronic Pain Management Class may be held here at the Center.

Dianne updated the Commission on the CRT nutrition program which reduced the meal deliveries to four days per week. The Center has been providing meals on Wednesdays with various long term care facilities providing food, and Italian Gourmet has catered two meals. A donation has been asked for these Wednesday meals and with the money that has been collected there was enough to have hot dogs one Wednesday and grinders on another Wednesday. CRT said they would restore the program to five days per week beginning August 26th, however the Center declined this as food has already been arranged for the time being. CRT will begin the five days per week on October 1st. The Meals On Wheels program continues to have an need for volunteer drivers to deliver either on a regular basis or a substitute basis. There have been situations over the last couple of months where no drivers were available and Center staff and Dial-A-Ride drivers had to help out.

Dianne updated the Commission on the revenue accounts: coffee shop $14,696, gift shop $46,877, membership $68,420, fitness $18,530, donations $15,122 — total $163,645. The gift shop is recruiting more volunteers; for many years the gift shop has closed for the month of August, and this does not need to happen. The gift shop did an inventory and there were a number of items that have been stolen or gone missing from the gift shop. Dianne indicated there may be a purchasing request from the gift shop to go before the Commission next month. The membership renewal went very well and on track with 75% of last year’s members renewing. A survey is included in the membership renewal and the highest number of surveys were returned this year – 575 – CCSU will analyze the survey, and have been asked to present this research at conferences.

The parking lot will be refinished, something that hasn’t been done in 21 years. The State’s Transportation Task Force that Dianne was appointed to began today and will meet over the next five months.

A. Door Counters

Dianne commented that she didn’t have the exact figures as one of the counters was not operating, however it is pretty even from last year’s figures.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Self-Assessment

This is status quo.
B. Purchase Requests

There were no Purchase Requests.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Regarding Campaign Activity in Senior and Disabled Center - Discussion

Dianne indicated that the Town has an administration letter/policy regarding campaigning in Town buildings which is strictly prohibited. No campaign literature is allowed in Town buildings. Dianne stated that the Commission had an issue with campaigning years ago and the Commission wrote a policy with regard to this issue. Karen stated she would like to see this policy. Karen read an email from Carol Anest regarding this topic. Dianne indicated that it is a gray area with regard to someone who is a member of the Center and is running for office, or when there is a program at the Center and someone who is running for office who normally does not come into the Center decides to attend that program. People who attend the Center on a daily basis don’t want their lunch or playing cards interrupted with a campaigner coming in to shake hands. There was a suggestion to hold a candidate forum at the Center, or a meet and greet the candidates, or an educational forum on the candidates. Gail Budrejko read the Town’s administrative letter regarding campaigning in Town buildings which states that Town facilities are not to be used in any way for campaigning. Dianne stated she could do a survey among the Center's members to see how they feel about it. Maureen commented that a meet and greet would be a good idea and it is up to the Center's members if they want to attend or not. Gail suggested that Dianne send something to both party chairs regarding the Commission’s policy. Dianne will review the policy and draft any updates for the Commissioner’s review at the October meeting.

VIII. AGENDA FOR OCTOBER MEETING

Move Policy Regarding Campaign Activity in Senior and Disabled Center to Old Business.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was mentioned that Local (Best) Market on Lowrey Place will close at the end of September. SAZ Restaurant on the Berlin Turnpike has also closed and The Flying Monkey will move there.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mary Udice made a motion to adjourn, Terri Lapenta-Duffek seconded the motion, and the monthly meeting of the Commission on Aging and Disabled adjourned at 6:54 PM with a 6-0 vote.

The next meeting of the Commission on Aging and Disabled is Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Whitney, Commission Clerk