East Haddam Commission on Aging
COA Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2021 Municipal Office Building, Room 1

Present: Brad Parker, Joe Sina, Jo Golec, Barbara Davis, Jovita Cozean, Maureen Gillis, John Pagnani, Rob Smith. Mary Ellen Klinck by phone.
Absent: Sue Bostelman, Alice Sabo

Meeting called to order at 10:45 AM by J. Sina.

Minutes: Modifications to the September 2020 Minutes: After sentence that 'M. Gillis offered to write a quarterly article for Events Magazine, to be reviewed by B. Parker – add 'M. Gillis offered to coordinate with B. Parker about welcome baskets for new residents'. Change 'Tax Program Assistance to begin in 2 weeks to **2 months**.' (Motion to accept minutes with modifications by J. Pagnani, seconded by J. Cozean.

Treasurer's Report: $5,397.33. No change in account as reported by B. Parker.

Correspondence: none

Old Business:

- Welcome Basket Update: J. Cozean reported that Patti Puia put a Welcome Packet together for a new neighbor. Discussion about maps and other items that should be included. B. Parker spoke to Bob Casner, who thought it was a great idea, and was supposed to get back to B. Parker. B. Parker will follow up with Bob Casner or Irene Haines (EDC). M. Gillis will let the Conservation Commission know that trail maps will be added to Welcome Baskets, so CC can increase their printing run if needed. For now, Patti Puia will put together the packets as needed.
- Senior Meals: The brown bag lunches are continuing with an average of about 30 meals per day. Tuesday & Thursday lunches are still being supplied by 2 Wrasslin' Cats, with MWF meals coming from CRT.
  -Meals on Wheels is still operating, but at a lower level due to hospitalizations, nursing homes, moving or deaths.
- COVID-19 Discussion: no activities at Senior Center; lunch program is still drive-up.
- J. Sina reported that the AARP-sponsored Tax Program will begin in February 17 for eight Wednesday sessions. Paperwork will be sent to those who sign up, for client to bring in at their appointment. As a safety precaution, appointments will be no longer than 15 minutes. There will be 3 counselors and 1 reviewer. M. Gillis asked if there can be an outreach to get more counselors for next year. If anyone is interested, they can go to the AARP website, go to volunteer – choose an area. M. Gillis is interested in sitting in to see how the appointments are handled, and to possibly train for next year.

Coordinator's Report:

- COVID Vaccination Clinic: the first clinic was held yesterday at the Senior Center, with Nutmeg Pharmacy staff giving 100 shots. They plan to continue every Saturday. Over 1200 people have already signed up with Nutmeg. M. Gillis interviewed several clients (for an article) who received shots. All those interviewed thought the process went well. It will be set up a little differently to make the process smoother for upcoming clinics.
- The next phase for vaccinations is 1B: essential workers
- Nutmeg Pharmacy has been very generous by donating cases of food for seniors.

- The East Haddam Community Lions donate more than 20 loaves of bread to the Senior Center every other week.
- Senior Meals Fund: There has been a tremendous response asking for donations to this fund that helps to pay for the senior meals.

Selectman's Report

- R. Smith reported that there have been 290 COVID cases and 8 deaths in town since March 2020. Our numbers are low compared to other towns in the Health District. Building and facility closures may happen if cases surge and/or a new variant appears. Currently, the State of CT is only receiving 25,000 vaccine doses per week to distribute to clinics.

New Business

- J. Pagnani announced that he is moving to Tennessee sometime in March. J. Sina, on behalf of the Board, thanked him for his 20 years of service and considerable help to the COA. A motion was made by ME Klinck to accept J. Pagnani's resignation. Motion seconded and carried.
- A motion was made by J. Pagnani to move an Alternate Member, M. Gillis, to fill J. Pagnani's spot on the Board as a regular Board member. The motion was seconded and passed.
- J. Pagnani made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to move M. Gillis to the COA Board as a regular member. Seconded and carried.
- B. Parker received an application from local resident June Guertin to become an Alternate COA Board Member. J. Cozean made a motion to accept J. Guertin as an Alternate, seconded by J. Pagnani and carried. The application will be sent to the First Selectman's office for a vote.
- B. Parker announced that the new restaurant, Tavern on the Hill and new grocery store, Hometown Market, will be opening soon. As of now, 2 Wrasslin' Cats is happy to continue providing meals for senior lunches.
- Senior Services Report: #s are low due to COVID.

The next COA Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2021, at the Municipal Office Complex, Room 1.

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Pagnani, seconded by J. Cozean and carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM

Respectfully submitted by,

Barbara Davis, Secretary