DRAFT

East Haddam Commission on Aging
COA Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020 Municipal Office Building

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

Meeting called to order at 10:34 AM by J. Sina. M. Gillis will sit in for A. Sabo.

Minutes: One change to the September 2020 Minutes: Strike sentence that 'M. Gillis offered to write a quarterly article for Events Magazine, to be reviewed by B. Parker. Minutes accepted as corrected by J. Golec and seconded by J. Cozean.

Treasurer's Report: Report sent in by Treasurer A. Sabo: $5,397.33. No change.

Correspondence: Rita Fiala sent a thank you note for being named 'Senior of the Year' at the Senior Center reception.

Old Business:

- East Haddam Town-wide Survey: There was a nice article in a recent edition of the East Haddam News.
- Welcome Basket Update: B. Parker spoke to Bob Casner, who thought it was a great idea and will take it to the next EDC meeting and report back to B. Parker
- Senior Meals: The brown bag lunches are continuing. There will be 29 lunches picked up today, with 40 being the highest. Tuesday & Thursday lunches are now from 2 Wrasslin' Cats. M. Gillis picks up the Wrasslin' Cats lunches and delivers them to the Senior Center. Hopefully, the new grocery store will be able to provide hot meals if Wrasslin' Cats can't continue. There are donations of sanitizing wipes; other supplies come from Town Hall.
  -Since our last meeting in Sept., 1,213 meals have been distributed with over 3,800 meals distributed since March. Meals on Wheels is still operating. Clients served is reduced due to people going to nursing homes, hospital, moving or deaths.
- COVID-19 Discussion: There will be a 'soft reopening' of the Senior Center with restrictions very soon. Currently, Tai Chi and Pilates are being held outside when it is warm enough. They will be held inside with 6' distancing, sanitizing and windows opened.
  -the Exercise & Computer rooms are open to 2 people at a time and are sanitized after each use.
  -everyone who enters the building has their temperature taken, must wear a mask and use sanitizer;
- The Medical Car trips are back to normal. Temperature is taken and masks are worn by client & driver. There is usually one trip in the morning and one trip in the afternoon.
- The Senior Bus goes out every other Tuesday taking 4 or 5 people to Old Saybrook for grocery and other shopping. Masks are worn and bus is sanitized after use. J. Sina asked if people felt safe taking the bus. B. Parker said that most people are staying home, and the ones who use the bus seem to be okay with the procedures.
- Fuel & Medicare Assistance: Numbers are down for people requesting help.

New Business:

- J. Sina reported that the AARP-sponsored Tax Program will begin in 2 weeks. They plan to have 2-3 people in at a time with sanitizing in between **IF** Senior Center is open. The other option is to have people scan their info in. If Senior Center is closed it is just too hard to hold the program. As of now, only East Haddam & East Hampton do tax counseling.
- J. Pagnani asked if future COA meetings can be held virtually. If the building is open, then probably in-person meetings. Will revisit this in early January.

Coordinator's Report:

- 12/2-12/12: Letters to Santa
- 12/5: Talk to Santa
- Family Night on the Green with Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be held on December 12 from 2-4 pm.
- Eagle Scout Project: Eagle Scouts will put up lights at the Pavilion for Christmas. They will also install 2 benches near the Pavilion, and build a Ladderball Game and 4 sets of Corn Hole for the seniors.

Selectman's Report

- COVID-19 cases in town are increasing; we are at Yellow Level now.
- Park & Rec athletic activities may end, and the Skate Park may be temporarily closed.
- Surrounding towns may close certain activities and services depending on COVID status in the area. R. Smith thinks that it will be status quo through Thanksgiving.
- If cases increase and we go to Red Level, the State will provide mobile testing at the Municipal Office Complex parking lot.
- COA Meeting dates to be sent to Town Clerk by Secretary for 2021.

The next COA Meeting is planned for January 28, 2021 at 10:30 at the Senior Center.

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Golec, seconded by J. Cozean and carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted by,

Barbara Davis, Secretary