DRAFT

East Haddam Commission on Aging
COA Special Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2021 Municipal Office Building, Room 1

Present: Brad Parker, Joe Sina, Jo Golec, Barbara Davis, Jovita Cozean, Maureen Gillis, Alice Sabo, Rob Smith, Mary Ellen Klinck, June Guertin.
Absent: Sue Bostelman
Guest: Bob Casner, EDC

Meeting called to order at 10:38 AM by J. Sina.

Minutes: Clarification to January 28, 2021 Minutes: AARP Tax Assistance *face to face meeting with masks will be no longer than 15 minutes.* (Motion to accept minutes with modifications by J. Golec, seconded by A. Sabo.

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

Correspondence: none

Old Business:

- Welcome Basket Update: Bob Casner thought the baskets were a good idea. The Senior Center will contribute items, but not be responsible for putting the baskets together. M. Gillis offered to help put the baskets together with the EDC (Economic Development Commission). M. Gillis also asked Mr. Casner if any businesses would be interested in sponsoring a hike(s) for those 50-65 years old. B. Parker had spoken to Irene Haines and didn't get much response. R. Smith (1st Selectman) reported that there was positive feedback to the idea. He said that all organizations should be willing to participate (esp. Park & Rec, Land Trust, EHBA, EDC, Senior Center, etc.). J. Sina asked if anyone has any ideas, please forward them to him. Mr. Casner reported that the EDC and EHBA will team up to work on the baskets to include information and/or coupons of Businesses, 2 Lions Clubs, Park & Rec, Restaurants, Land Trust, Senior Center, Little League, Town services & departments, etc. The next EDC meeting is on April 1. The EDC has an office in the MOC building where all this info will be available.
- J. Sina reported that the AARP-sponsored Tax Program will continue on Wednesdays by appointment. 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. ME Klinck attended an East Haddam-Haddam Chamber meeting and reported that East Haddam currently has the highest rate of vaccinations, and Brad/Patti/Senior Center were praised for their successful coordination of the vaccination clinics. As of now, no vaccines have been wasted. If there is extra at the end of a clinic, B. Parker will call people on the list to come in. 27% of East Haddam people have had 1 dose (as of 2 weeks ago).

Coordinator's Report:

- Senior Meals: The brown bag lunches are continuing with an average of about 25 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.
  -The local Health Dept. will have to approve congregate meals when the COVID #s are lower. At that time the brown bag lunches will stop.

- COVID-19 Discussion: no activities at Senior Center; lunch program is still drive-up.
- COVID Vaccination Clinic: the clinic is now being held at the MOC. Last week 350 vaccinations were given. East Haddam is still in the red zone with 32 new cases last week and 26 cases the week before. The Senior Center will not open until the # of cases goes down and stays down.
- 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.
- Meals on Wheels has added a new couple to the list.
- The Medical Car has been very busy and most days provides 2 medical trips.
- Tax Prep: 84 clients have registered this year, and special measures are taken due to COVID.

- Starting July 1, B. Parker will oversee the East Haddam Food Bank as part of the Senior Center. The person who has been running it (Lori) will become a paid town employee and continue with the Food Bank.
- Once the Senior Center opens, B. Parker is planning an outdoor 'Welcome Back' event, with hot dogs, games, etc.
- Senior Housing: There is a Senior Housing Board and B. Parker is chair. For the last few years there has not been any funding for new units through USDA & HUD. Money was available for renovations to existing units and that was done. There is land available, so we are waiting for $$ to become available. There are 36 units now, and a waiting list to get in.

Selectman's Report – none

New Business

- Welcome to the East Haddam COA: June Guertin as an Alternate on the Board.
- A. Sabo announced that she will be resigning for the EH COA due to health issues. She has been a member since 1999. Thank you, Alice for your many years of service.
- B. Parker announced that Doris Brown's 104th Birthday is on 3/31 and is asking people to send cards.

The next COA Meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2021, at the Senior Center.

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Golec, seconded by J. Cozean and carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM

Respectfully submitted by,

Barbara Davis, Secretary