

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
COMMISSION ON AGING

The Town of Franklin is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
FRANKLIN SENIOR CENTER

5 TYLER DRIVE FRANKLIN, CONNECTICUT 06254

The mission of the Franklin Commission on Aging is to provide information and services to the aging population, their families, and their care providers.

THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE FRANKLIN COMMISSION ON AGING, HELD
AT 2:00 PM AT THE FRANKLIN SENIOR CENTER
ON WEDNESDAY, THE 9TH OF AUGUST, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Judi Novosad called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.
PRESENT: Commission Members Alison Dvorak, Heather Glidden, Judy Marrotte, and
Barbara Morin. ABSENT: Commission Members Tammi Avery and Caroline Grant.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Glidden made a motion to approve the minutes of the
May 10th meeting as presented. Mrs. Novosad seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF REPORTS:

A) MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY: Mrs. Glidden reported that she had
attended training to assist veterans. She also noted that she would be scheduling
appointments for assistance with energy assistance, tax abatements, and other needs.

B) SENIOR CENTER PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Mrs. Novosad reported on the
monthly editions of Franklin Life, and noted that while she still wanted to distribute a
brochure, she first wanted to send out a town-wide survey to gain more information on
demographics and needs so the brochure could target specific audiences. Discussion
followed on ways to disseminate the survey; Mrs. Dvorak recommended using links on
the Senior Resources Agency on Aging's website. Mrs. Novosad suggested forming a
subcommittee for the survey. Mrs. Dvorak also offered to distribute the most recent
Franklin Life at the Franklin Lions Club's annual mud run on August 19th and 20th. Mrs.
Novosad noted that the grant received during the previous senior center administration
had been closed out, and she had also received new grants, including \$1,000 from the
Chelsea Groton Bank for organizational shelving and \$50 from Home Depot used for a
grill. She noted that she still planned to obtain a grill cover and outdoor canopies. Mrs.
Marrotte noted that her family had an outdoor canopy they no longer used that she would
donate to the center. Mrs. Novosad also noted that she and Mrs. Glidden were applying
for funds through the American Rescue Plan Act of at least \$5,500 that they planned to
use for kitchen upgrades; Mrs. Dvorak noted that they should act fast to secure the funds.
Discussion followed. Mrs. Novosad also noted that a food pantry would be set up at the
senior center, in addition to the existing one at the town hall. Mrs. Novosad noted that
quarterly roundtables with senior center staff from surrounding towns, including Bozrah,
Lebanon, Lisbon, and Sprague would be starting. Discussion followed on transportation

initiatives, including sharing bus use with Sprague and joining a bus trip with Lisbon, and on using Dial-A-Ride services instead of only relying on Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium for medical appointments. Mrs. Dvorak suggested using Wednesdays, or some Wednesdays, for medical appointment/shopping trips instead of, or with, restaurant trips. Discussion followed.

C) MEAL SITE MANAGER: Mrs. Novosad reported that Mrs. Avery had served 80 meals in May, 64 in June, and 32 in July. Mrs. Dvorak noted that there had been on Franklin respondents for farmers' market vouchers, which are in limited supply. Mrs. Novosad will submit the names of those interested who are age-and-income eligible on August 15th.

OLD BUSINESS:

A) MEMBERSHIP: Mrs. Novosad reported that there was a change in leadership at the Elisha Brook Senior Housing Complex, with a lack of response from any new liaison; this is why the location of this meeting was changed from there to the Senior Center. Mrs. Dvorak, as president of the complex's Board of Directors, had not been notified of any turnover and will contact the administrator, Access Agency, for an update and contact information on the new liaison. Mrs. Novosad reported that new people continue to express interest in senior center activities and there are now 39 active members at the center.

NEW BUSINESS:

A) FUTURE ACTIVITIES: Mrs. Novosad reported that on August 29th, a summer picnic/open house will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for all interested members of the community, which will include grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, live music, yard games, and a classic car show. In September, trips will be taken to The Main Moose in Columbia and the Eastern States Exposition on Connecticut Day. In October, a trip to Wright's Farm in Rhode Island will be taken, and Uncas Health District will conduct a vaccination clinic at the center. In November, transportation will be available to take residents to the polls on Election Day, and commemorations will be held during the week of Veterans Day.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT COMMISSION MEETING DATE AND TIME: Mrs. Dvorak offered meeting space at the Senior Resources Agency on Aging for future meeting rotations. Discussion followed. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8th, 2023 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Resources Agency on Aging, located in Suite 2 at 19 Ohio Avenue in Norwich.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Dvorak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Glidden seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
TRACI L. HASTINGS, CLERK
COMMISSION ON AGING