

COLUMBIA COMMISSION ON AGING
Meeting Notes for 4/25/18

Meeting called to Order at 9:02 AM

ATTENDING: Catherine Rowe (Chairman), Lyn Buonocore, Millie Ramsey, Edith Prague, Paula Cahalan, Steve Everett (Columbia First Selectman), Mark Walters (Town Manager)

Minutes from meeting on 2/28/18 read and motion to accept made by Lyn Buonocore and seconded by Paula Cahalan. There was no official meeting of CONA in the month of March due to lack of member quorum attending the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bernadette was absent due to sickness and her update was tabled.
2. Questions and answer session with Cathy Osten about Senior Housing:
 - Cathy discussed several grants and other funding for which Columbia could apply. She left with the committee a list of the competitive funding programs and qualifications and dead lines for each program. A copy of this list is available from CONA members.
 - She explained that affordable housing is defined as money available to residents who are just breaking into a profession and probably do not have enough fund to independently afford housing. There is no age defined with this housing and probably would be a younger person. This differs from a Chapter 8 applicant or Senior Housing.
 - She had done research and found that 935 of Columbia residents would qualify for housing assist.
 - She discussed Predevelopment loans which can assist during the preplanning phase of building.
 - Cathy Osten advised that The committee, also, contact Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the Dept. of Housing who could provide us with additional information. She will send us the Commissioners' contact information.
 - She discussed ideas on how existing services within Columbia could be used and expanded.
3. Update from Steve Everett regarding Veteran Housing/Joe Courtney's office.

- Steve has talked to Joe Courtney and related that the veterans in Connecticut get a \$2000 monthly allowance for housing.
- He felt we should first research and acquire the property within Columbia that would be needed to build this housing. He has discussed with Lebanon how they have financed their Senior Housing. He is presently looking into possible land that is available.
- He cautioned the committee to carefully review the grants that we might consider applying for and be aware of all the parameters defined within the grant.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Paula Cahalan, and seconded by Millie Ramsey. Meeting adjourned and 10:25 AM.
Next meeting date is 5/23/18.

Notes submitted by Lyn Buonocore