

Columbia Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes for August 22,2018

Members in attendance: Cathie Rowe, Jill Livingston, Paula Cahalan, Millie Ramsey, Lynn Buonocore, Maggie Ewald, Edith Prague.

Guests: Mark Walter and Bernadette Derring

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 by Chairwoman Cathy Rowe.

Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and approved.

Motion to approve minutes was made by E. Prague and Seconded by M. Ramsey. 7 YES - 0 NO

Cathy reviewed the meeting with Steven Everett and Mark Walter held on August 6,2018. Paula C. and Millie R. were in attendance. Steven would like more data on number off medical trips that were not covered by the van. Bernadette will be asked to provide this specific data for the meeting. Discussion of renting a car for medical appointments will be put on hold until this data is reviewed.

On the matter of authorizing a Housing Authority for affordable senior housing Steven asked for more information and suggested a survey to gather information on: 1. Do people feel there is a need for Senior Housing in Columbia? 2. How many people would consider living in senior housing. 3. Names of people interested on serving on a Housing Authority.

Cathy created a questionnaire to gather this data. Paula stayed at the Election Primary on August 14th and distributed them from 8:00AM – 3:00PM and Lynn distributed them from 3:00PM to 5:00PM 295 surveys were collected. Millie compiled the tabulations that are presented on the attached pages.

252 people believe senior housing is needed in Columbia and of those 144 responded they would live in senior housing if available and another 33 responded maybe. A total of 767 registered Republican and Democrats voted in the Primary.

At the August 21,2018 Selectman's Meeting Steven brought up the need to establish a housing authority in Columbia. Various Selectmen had additional questions about the workings of a Housing Authority. Mark Walter was instructed to bring back additional information for the Selectmen's meeting on September 4,2018.

Cathy asked Mark how CONA could help gather information for the Selectmen. She and Mark will meet to go over the questions and prepare a written list of questions. L. Napolitano asked about granny pods and looking at the zoning regs concerning in- law apartments.

The following MOTION was made by Edith and SECONDED by Paula. To pursue the questions that came from the Selectmen concerning the feasibility of a housing authority and senior housing in Columbia. 7 YES 0 NO

The following Housing Authorities will be approached by CONA members to gather information once questions are finalized. Cathy will email questions to members. The process of gathering data can be time consuming but will be done as expeditiously as possible.

Mark - East Haddam and Bob Gagnon who is building units in Colchester.

Edith - Lebanon

Millie – Hebron

Bernadette – Colchester

Lynn – Mansfield

Jill – Coventry

Report from Bernadette:

Rose Kurcenick will start August 28th as a per diem van driver and will cover the sick days of the permanent driver who is out on medical leave for 6-8 weeks with shoulder injuries.

The center has been painted and picture framing rails have been installed.

The Lions Club now has a designated, permanent wall in the center to display their plaques and memorabilia. Their dinner meetings will be catered by Rose Randazzo who is very familiar with the kitchen.

A permanent coffee station is being planned and installed in the bump out area of the main hall. New freezers are being purchased. Look for them soon!!!

Edith ask Bernadette to clarify the refund policy for trips booked at the center. Refunds are sometimes available if Bernadette can find a replacement on short notice. Other times a refund is not available especially if meals have been ordered.

Paula's resignation from CONA was accepted with regret. She has been an enthusiastic member of the Commission sharing insights and acting as a liaison with the Columbia Senior Organization and the Lions Club.

Maggie motioned and Jill seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55.

The next meeting will be September 26,2018.