

Columbia Commission on Aging

September 26, 2018

9-10 am

Beckish Senior Center

Present: Cathie Rowe, Marjorie Mossberg, Millie Ramsey, Lynn Buonocore, Edith Prague, Maggie Ewald

Guests: Mark Walter, Bernadette Derring

Meeting was called to order at 9 am by Chair woman Cathie Rowe.

Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and approved. E. Prague motioned to approve the minutes and M. Ramsey seconded.

Members reported on the contacts they had made to a number of local towns. The questions prepared by CONA Chair and Columbia Town Manager regarding Elderly Housing were posed to contacts in the towns of Mansfield, East Haddam, Hebron, Colchester and Lebanon.

L. Buonocore contacted Mansfield. M. Walter contacted East Haddam. M. Ramsey contacted Hebron. B. Derring contacted Colchester. E. Prague, M. Ewald and C. Rowe contacted Lebanon. The information collected according to the questionnaire for each town's Elderly Housing was turned in to the Chair C. Rowe, for any future public interest. Discussion followed regarding the various municipal models including: a Municipal Housing Authority, Private Developers, Property Management entities, Municipal Property, as well as a combination of Municipal Housing and private developers. Layouts for 1-2 BR apartments were considered along with options for garages, parking, decks and accessibility. A variety of funding including Federal HUD and CT State funding options was further discussed along with any restrictions, limitations and historical changes in the same. Rental costs along with subsidized rents were also discussed.

At this point, in the collection of information, Lebanon's model for elderly housing seemed to be most appropriate for CONA to consider and make recommendations to the Board of Selectman in the future. The developer and property management unit is a private company owned by the Goldsteins located in Colchester. One or more representatives of the Goldsteins will be invited to a future CONA meeting.

Next steps were discussed:

- 1) Town approval of a resolution
- 2) Identify any available land for purpose of Elderly Housing
- 3) Invite Goldsteins to a future CONA meeting

New Business:

With vacancy presented by P. Calahan last month, discussion of filling CONA membership as required by party affiliation and unaffiliation was discussed. E. Prague made a motion and L. Buonocore seconded.

B. Derring presented Senior Center Report:

- 1) GEM newsletter publication has increased from original 150 issues to 600 issues.
- 2) The Center's calendar is generally full with many programs and activities. Sharon Smith as Columbia Senior Organization's President and respective members have been working well Senior Center staff on a number of projects.
- 3) TVCCA meal quality has improved with salads added during warm months and soups during colder months along with regular menu. As a result lunch attendance has grown.
- 4) Center improvements include: New shed, new windows, interior painting, pending coffee station as well as a new coffee station.
- 5) VNA Flu Clinics are scheduled for Oct. 30 @ 4:30 – 6:30 pm and Nov. 7 @ 10 – 12 noon.

Chair C. Rowe noted time of 9 am and informed members of next CONA meeting to be held Wed. Oct. 24th. M. Ramsey made a motion to adjourn. M. Ewald seconded motion. September CONA was adjourned accordingly.