

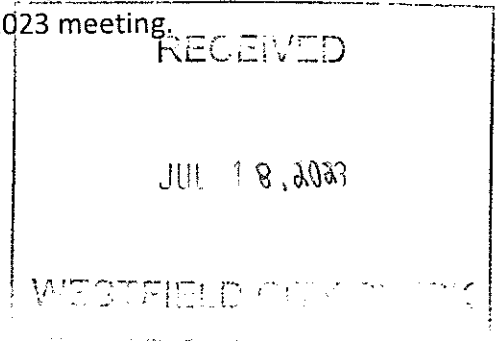
**City of Westfield
Minutes of the Council On Aging
June 12, 2023**

I. The Meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Eileen Rockwal at 12:36 p.m.

Board Members Present: Eileen Rockwal, Elizabeth Boucher, Barbara Taylor, Ed Ekmalian, and John Greaney. James Liptak was absent. Also present were Tina Gorman, Executive Director of the Council On Aging and City Councilor Ralph Figy, Liaison to the Council On Aging.

II. Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2023 Meeting:

Upon a Motion duly made by Ed Ekmalian and seconded by John Greaney, it was VOTED unanimously: To approve the Minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting.



III. Public Participation:

No public participation.

IV. Items for Discussion/Information:

A. Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES) Report

Mr. Liptak could not attend today's meeting. His HVES report is attached.

B. Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off, Ordinance Change

Mrs. Gorman reminded the Board that, after discussion, the Board voted unanimously at the September 26, 2022 meeting to eliminate the income guidelines for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program. Mrs. Gorman drafted a letter to the Mayor with a request that the ordinance change be placed on the City Council Agenda. The Agenda item was sent to the Legislative and Ordinance Committee at the May 4, 2023 City Council meeting. After a favorable recommendation from the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, the full Council passed the ordinance change after a first and second reading at the June 1, 2023 meeting. The change will officially go into effect in September 2023 during the FY24 Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off application period.

C. Second-Floor Renovation Project, Construction Update:

Mrs. Gorman reported that the construction project is both on schedule and on budget. The sprinkler and HVAC systems have been rerouted, and much of the electrical work is complete. The doors will be framed during the next week. The flush office doors will be installed soon, but the doors to the suite and hallway closet aren't scheduled for delivery until July 17. The flooring will be installed beginning on June 26. The office furniture is scheduled for delivery on June 30. Judge Greaney asked if the COA got a good price on the furniture. Mrs. Gorman answered that Lexington Group has done a wonderful job accommodating our needs at affordable prices. The Friends of the Westfield Senior Center have funded the furnishings for the entire building.

D. COA Staffing Update:

Mrs. Gorman advised the COA Board today that she is not seeking reappointment to her Executive Director position. Her contract ends in early July. Mrs. Gorman is hoping to step down, but not step away, from the department. Mrs. Gorman explained that she has no plans to retire at this time. But, she would like to transition to a position with fewer responsibilities and fewer hours. Within the next week or so, the Executive Director position will be posted. A new Director will likely begin sometime late fall. Mrs. Gorman will train the new Director for a period of time to be determined by the Mayor. She plans to apply for a different position within the department. Her goal is for a smooth transition of leadership through a 'warm handoff.'

V. Items for Action: None

VI. Director's Report

Review of Programs

June 'Westfield Council On Aging Presents' Series

- *Opioid Use and How to Combat It*
- Guests: Jessica Holden, Executive Director of Nursing, WSU; Sarah Warn and Heather Colon, ED Opioid Resource Nurses
- Grant-funded program (through Senator Velis) aimed at increasing access to resources in a supportive hospital environment by people who use drugs and those with substance use disorder.
- Aired Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:45 throughout the month of June

- *June WCPC Performance:*

- From *Agawam Applause* series and performed at the Agawam Senior Center: **'The Jazz Bones'** - the only jazz trombone ensemble in New England
- Shown on cable Channel 15 throughout June on Wednesday afternoons, and Saturday evenings

- *All-American Mother's Day Curbside Extravaganza*

- Richie Mitnick and Dave Colucci performed on the patio, outdoors
- Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, apple pie a la' mode for dessert
- Approximately 100 enthusiastic participants

- *Friends of the Westfield Senior Center Annual Meeting*

- The Treasurer reviewed the group's finances, with income and expenses noted.
- Services, programs, activities and fundraisers were discussed, and Board elections were held.
- Certificates of Appreciation were given to Eric Bascom from Lexington Group for his years of assistance with appropriate furnishings for the Senior Center, and Kathy Millas for her extraordinary volunteer contributions.

- *Assessor's Information Session*
 - o Westfield City Assessor Ashlie Brown outlined Senior and Veteran exemptions after explaining the difference between an exemption and an abatement
 - o Staff from the Assessor's Office also reviewed individual participant's Property Record cards to verify that the information is correct
- *Dr. Andrew Lam Presentation*
 - o Local eye surgeon and author Dr. Andrew Lam spoke at the June 9, *Novel Ideas Book Group* about his fourth book, *The Masters of Medicine*
 - o There were 43 enthusiastic participants in attendance
 - o Thanks to COA Board Secretary, Liz Boucher, for coordinating Dr. Lam's visit

Upcoming Programs

- *Legal Service*
 - o New legal service to begin in June
 - o Westfield Attorney Brad Moir will meet one-on-one with older adults to provide guidance regarding personal legal issues
 - o Estate planning, probate, other civil matters
 - o Pre-registration will be required: name (so there is not a conflict of interest) and topic to be discussed
 - o Three of the four appointment slots for June are already filled
 - o Third Thursday of the month, 10 a.m. to Noon, beginning June 15
- *Jimmy Mazz Fundraiser Performance*
 - o Fundraiser for the Friends of the Westfield Senior Center
 - o Friday, June 16 from 6:15 to 7:15
 - o Participants will leave with an ice cream sundae
 - o Winning ticket of the Friends month-long 50/50 drawing will be drawn
 - o \$10 per tickets; ticket limit has been lifted
- *Elder Law 2023*
 - o Thursday, June 22 at 6 p.m.
 - o Attorney Hyman Darling will present, 'Elder Law 2023' through the Massachusetts Bar Association's annual 'Elder Law Education Project.'
 - o Scheduled as an evening program so that those older adults who are still working and/or their families will have an opportunity to attend.
- *'Over the Rainbow' Senior Center Open House and Continental Breakfast*
 - o Saturday, June 24 from 9 to 11 a.m.
 - o A social gathering for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, allies, and friends

- *July 'Westfield Council On Aging Presents' Series*
 - o Guests: Andrea Allard, Executive Director and Michelle Urbanski, Health and Wellness Director, YMCA of Greater Westfield
 - o Will discuss their relatively new Parkinson's fitness program as well as their Active Older Adults programs
 - o Aired Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:45 throughout the month of July

- *July WCPC 'Performance'*
 - o Channel 15 *WTA Chef Showdown*
 - o Episodes 1, 2, 3
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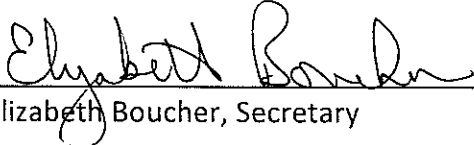
- *Miscellaneous*
 - o No indoor dining during the month of June because of staff and volunteer vacations
 - o Indoor dining will resume on July 5

VII: Mrs. Gorman reminded the Board that our next meeting will be held on **Monday, July 10, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.** at the Westfield Senior Center. The 12:30 p.m. start time will be in effect until the second-floor construction is completed and the Multipurpose Room is once again available for COA Board meetings.

VIII. There being no further business to come before the Board, upon Motion duly made by Elizabeth Boucher and seconded by Ed Ekmalian, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

List of Exhibits:

- Highland Valley Elder Services Monthly Report
- Director's Report



Elizabeth Boucher, Secretary

**Highland Valley Elder Services Report from the 6/5/2023 meeting
Submitted by Jim Liptak, HVES Board of Directors**

The majority of the meeting was concerned with the HVES financial report and preparation for our yearly audit. The report is very favorable. Director Allan Ouimet and Financial Staff were commended.

Nutrition

Feedback regarding the Home Delivered Meals program is very favorable. There have been few concerns about the temperature of meals and dryness. Surveys for 'preference of meals,' in order, is:

- A. Meat
- B. Chicken
- C. Fish
- D. Vegetarian

Packaged meals to all community dining sites are continuing. Not sure how long this will continue and when sites will return to in-house only dining. Second delivery van is now being completely utilized and has reduced delivery times.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Westfield has received a Nutrition Grant for \$6000.

Jennifer Trovato has started as the new Associate Director of Human Services.

Plans for a new Senior Center in Southampton are progressing. Director Joan Linnehan will be leaving the Southampton Senior Center at the end of June.

The HVES Board will not meet during July and August.

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