

WALLINGFORD COMMITTEE ON AGING, INC.
July 18, 2025
MINUTES OF MEETING

ATTENDANCE: Erin Ambler, Anne Bernick, Rosemary DeAngelis, Rocco DiGenova, Tom Finn, Jane Fisher, Susan Gomes, Audrey Grove, Glenn Havumaki, Tara Knapp, Karin Pyskaty, Gus Trujillo and Ann Zak

EXCUSED: Evangeline Bourgeois and Alberta Flynn

ABSENT: Steve Allinson and Ronald Graziani

President Jane Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. She commented that all the celebrations for Bill Viola were really great. Appreciated everyone who helped, as well as attended the events. Asked about putting a picture in the Front Porch news of the plaque for Bill Viola on the walking trail out back. Karin Pyskaty will look into that.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

President Jane Fisher asked if there were any additions or corrections to the June 20, 2025 Secretary's Report.

Tara Knapp made a motion to accept the June Secretary's Report. Rosemary DeAngelis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

June 2025 Operating Account Report

Treasurer Gus Trujillo reported for the year ending June 30, 2025. Receipts are \$1,055,895 which is \$3,588 above the budgeted amount of \$1,052,307. Expenditures are \$1,042,701 which is \$9,606 below the budgeted amount. All this results in a net positive of \$13,194 which will roll-over into the 2025-2026 budget.

Anne Bernick made a motion to accept the June Operating Account Report. Glenn Havumaki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

June 2025 Program Account Report

Program Director Erin Ambler reported that finishing up the year was very busy. SilverSneakers had 1,244 swipes for \$2,190 and Renew Active had 521 swipes for \$1,020, both for May. The commission for trips is on track and we should finish the budget year at \$20,000 – \$25,000 for all trips. The Hawaii trip is doing well, which is planned for October and has 11 people. She has been doing a lot of bus sharing with day trips and that's going well. Reviewed some other upcoming trips.

Audrey Grove made a motion to accept the June Program Account Report. Tara Knapp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Jane Fisher asked that the Consent Agenda be accepted.

Rosemary DeAngelis made a motion to accept the June Consent Agenda. Tara Knapp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director

Executive Director Ann Zak reported that she has been here for four solid weeks now. She is getting to know a lot more, i.e., all the little things that make this place special and keeps it going. There are opportunities to tweak or revamp how we interact with members to make people feel welcomed. Feels that the membership handbook has some things which act as roadblocks. She has worked with staff on implementing new procedures. One thing is membership cards, which sometimes people forget. We have been very strict about needing your card to register for anything. One thing we will begin to do is issue a temporary card, similar to Costco and other places. It will let people know that if they don't have their card, it's not going to prevent them from registering. A temporary card can be done at the front desk or anyone can help them if needed. Also, will work on changing some things in the member handbook to reflect the changes. Another item is the high demand classes that sell out. Now a member is allowed to sign up one other person. ED will streamline it a little bit so that a member can sign up other people after the first week. Also, there will not be restrictions on signing up others for the Thursday night dinners, since the Great Room can hold 500 people. Another item that will change is membership renewal. Currently, a member is renewed for a year but it will be extended to three years, similar to the Wallingford library. However, we ask members to continue to make any changes as they happen, such as change of address, cell or telephone number, or emergency contact. This will make the process more user friendly. August will start renewing for three years. ED asked the Board if there is anyone who she should contact for a tour of the Senior Center or to meet. A discussion took place about guests coming into the center and possibly providing an ID for them. This led to a conversation about people from other towns being able to become a member for a fee. Ann is happy to work on that and will report at the next meeting.

Program Director

Program Director Erin Ambler stated that it was a very good flower show in June. The ProShred event in June was chaotic. In the past, ProShred was here for an hour but unbeknown to us, they advertised the event for three hours, 9 – 12. This caused cars to line up down the street and it was crazy. We did cover our cost for them, but will look into improving the process for next year. Reviewed other events. Stated that Susan (Program Coordinator) is fabulous and has a wealth of ideas. She started clay classes which already is waitlisted. The R Band season has begun and it has been going great.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Ballot Box Camera System

Federal law requires a ballot box to be monitored 24/7. There is currently one in front of the Senior Center. ED has worked with the town IT manager to facilitate a separate system for that.

Fire Alarm Panel Upgrade

ED figured out what was causing the false alarms. Unfortunately, the panel was discontinued fourteen years ago and is on borrowed time. We will have to talk to the town about how the WSC can replace it and will work with them to get it funded.

Computer Replacement Plan

ED stated that the center's computer system is old as well. Spoke with Mike from GTG and he remembers putting in new equipment ten years ago. Starting to have issues. Erin's computer has been just been replaced since it wasn't salvageable. The center currently has 15 computers and 7 laptops. The quote was discussed. ED will look at the logistics of what is being offered in the quote and possible spread it out. Suggested something else we might need to invest in is the anti-virus software we currently use. What we use now is more for home use, not a business. Will look into that further.

Membership Guidelines

Executive Director Zak would like to ask the board to change the minimum age to join the Senior Center from 60 to 55. Did some research and a lot of senior centers have made that change – Cheshire, Durham, Meriden, etc. A discussion ensued about changing the minimum age and any downside to doing so. Also discussed opening for more hours. ED stated that she has already started a conversation with Erin and has a year to work it into the budget.

Tara Knapp made a motion to change the minimum age to join the Wallingford Senior Center from 60 to 55. Audrey Grove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Rocco DiGenova stated that a member mentioned to him that some of the weights in the Fitness Room are deteriorating and need to be replaced. Erin will look into that.

Audrey Grove mentioned a fundraiser in October that Jane's company is having. Oasis Senior Advisors of Central CT is co-hosting an event on October 28 in the evening at a brewery in Plainville. It will include pizza, beer, a costume contest, and dancing for \$25 per ticket. Everything received from sponsorships will go towards dementia. Also, will have a raffle of baskets. Hope to do this annually.

ADJOURNMENT

Tara Knapp made the motion to adjourn. Karin Pyskaty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth H Johnson
Administrative Assistant