
Town of Montville

**COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2025 | 9:00 a.m.
Montville Senior Center – Library**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chair Doherty-Peck at 9:08 a.m., followed by The Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Doherty-Peck; Commissioners Perkins, Ziegler, O'Brien and Suarez; Liaisons Councilman Caron and Lt. Radford; Mayor Bunnell

Absent with Prior Notice: Adams

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve January 2025 Minutes by Lt. Radford, seconded by Commissioner Perkins; **Vote:** All in Favor

Action: Motion Carried

4. REMARKS FROM PUBLIC

Senator Cathy Osten (audio)

Public Act No. 24-39 Connecticut House Bill (HB) 5001 2024 An Act Supporting CT Seniors and the Improvement of Nursing and Home-based Care, May 21, 2024, is limited to Medicaid recipients only. The program is structured to be cost-effective for the state, and the bill revises eligibility criteria, including presumptive Medicaid eligibility, and requires the Commissioner of Social Services to seek federal reimbursement for the costs of providing coverage to presumptively eligible individuals. It also mandates the Commissioner of Social Services to collect data on the services provided and report to the General Assembly. It is intended as a multi-year effort. Regarding the Commission's interest in extending services to all seniors irrespective of financial status, Sen. Osten will attend the March 9 meeting at the Montville Senior Center for questions and discussion.

5. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Chair Doherty-Peck

Program Services: Kudos to the Senior Center program coordinator Caitlin for the outstanding development and marketing of the monthly newsletter featuring a multitude of programs and services available for seniors. Kudos to Chef Tom for his culinary genius in filling the dining room with appetite appeal with the sight and smell of meals provided by our modest pantry of donations. The *Virtual Tour* and *Crafts* programs are quickly gaining popularity; while the *Dinner and a Movie* program has doubled in participation by more than 50 attendees. Beginner and intermediate computer classes will begin in March. The specifics will be made available in the forthcoming newsletter for March.

Funding for Services: Grant writing season has arrived and available funds are being sought to continue providing free programs, services, and trips for seniors. In particular, the senior center seeks funding for a new bus for transporting seniors to banks, shopping and daytrips; and funds for expanding the popular Homemaker program that has been instrumental in helping seniors with laundry chores and maintaining a clean living environment.

Mayor Bunnell

The federal funding freeze threatens to destabilize a wide range of programs and services that will need to be absorbed by State and local governments. Every effort will be made by our local administration to maintain these services for our marginalized communities through budgetary planning and control, minimizing any residual burden on our taxpayers. The new app is less intrusive and less expensive. Feedback from each department is requested as to its utility and how each intends to incorporate it in their department.

Liaison Caron

Consequences of a federal funding freeze will adversely affect State and local government-funded services. There is no escaping that taxpayer dollars will increase to administer services that affect everyday lives of people and their communities, i.e., child care, food assistance, and housing support. The Mayor and Town Council are committed to trimming costs over raising taxes; however, at best, there will be a modest tax increase affecting all taxpayers. The effort is to maintain services to the most vulnerable population while keeping tax increase at a minimum. Discussions with three directors respecting the overhead expense for print publication of the Community booklet is underway.

Commissioner O'Brien

Eliminating the print format of the Community booklet would cut costs and increase marketability.

Commissioner Perkins

The services provided at the senior center are sustained through grants, not municipal funding. Incorporating the Community booklet in the Silver Times may be a cost-effective solution.

Commissioner Ziegler

Agencies are in need of being regulated. DPH, not Social Services, should oversee the agency practices.

Commissioner Suarez

The update on the MHA Montville site has established a viable communication platform

from which to receive and respond to inquiries from the elderly and disabled population seeking affordable housing.

6. STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Unfinished Business

Motion by Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Suarez to update Bylaws Article IV Section 1 to afford flexibility among members in the event of future meeting time changes. **Vote:** All in Favor **Action:** Motion Carried

b. New Business – None

7. REMARKS FROM PUBLIC – None

8. REMARKS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None

9. ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Commission Perkins, seconded by Commissioner Suarez. **Vote:** All in Favor

Action: Motion Carried; Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Deb Suarez, Secretary for the Commission on Aging
Cc: Commission File