

**Town of East Greenwich
Community and Senior Center Advisory Committee
Swift Community Center
121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818
January 29, 2019**

Members Present: Virginia Arnold, Aurelia Dicecco, Suzanne Bertrand, Mary (Terry) Grausgruber, Kathleen Healey, Patricia Pollock, Deborah Neubler

Absent: Jenny Miller, Adele Hosmer, Mary Rossetti

Staff: Charlotte Markey, Rachel Longo

The meeting began at 1:03pm.

The meeting was called to order by Charlotte M. and seconded by Mary (Terry) G. Charlotte announced the resignation of Nancy Wheeler as a volunteer from the Committee. Charlotte asked the committee if anyone would like to do the meeting minutes- There was no response from any of the committee members. Charlotte states that Rachel L. would record the meeting minutes. The minutes from November 27, 2018 were reviewed and corrections were noted. Mary (Terry) G. stated she did not believe Adele H. was present at the last meeting but was listed as present. Ginger A. asked that the East Greenwich Rotary Club be recognized in the minutes for providing the buckets of salt and sand. Deborah Neubler arrived late to the meeting at 1:10pm. Kathleen H. made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ginger A. seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Charlotte M. explicated to the committee that there are enough members even with Nancy Wheeler's resignation. Charlotte M. also explicated that Liz Dietz is present from Saint Elizabeth's to take notes for Mary Rossetti.

There was discussion about possibly changing the venue or time of the committee meeting because of the noise level at the 1 o'clock hour due to the line dancing class taking place in the gym at the same time. The committee discussed changing the time of the meeting to 2 o'clock. Charlotte M. called a vote. All were in favor. None opposed.

Pat P. stated that it was very helpful that Charlotte M. provided November's meeting minutes early for review. Mary (Terry) G. asked what time Maryjo Greig (transportation coordinator) works until because concern was raised about the individuals at the meeting that rely on the bus for transportation home, now that the meeting time has changed to 2:00pm. Charlotte M. responded that Maryjo works until 4:30pm and they will be sure to accommodate the individuals using the bus.

Charlotte M. provided an overview of February activities and updates to the committee. 84 tickets have been sold to date for the Valentine's day luncheon. Don Lee is playing music at the lunch and has provided a discount.

Charlotte explicated that Atria Harborhill is going to host an Alzheimer's prevention presentation and that the St. Patrick's day luncheon tickets will go on sale soon. Terry (Mary) G.

suggested using Sue McCloud as the entertainer. Charlotte stated that she will follow up on that suggestion and reach out to Sue. Ginger A. stated that there should be a designated table for town council members to sit and eat and suggested Charlotte send the town council invitations to luncheons. Charlotte M. responded that she does invite the town council members to all past luncheons and will continue to do so. Charlotte M. explained that the council has shown interest in socializing and mingling with the seniors versus remaining seated at a table for the entirety of a luncheon.

Charlotte M. provided further updates to the committee on senior center activities such as the upcoming AARP tax sessions running from 2/6/19 through 4/10/19 that are free to seniors. Deborah N. stated she has neighbors that utilized the service last year and were extremely satisfied.

Rachel L. provided the committee with a human services update. Rachel L. will be holding a senior telephone scams seminar on 2/6/19 at 11:00am in the conference room. Rachel L. plans to host a session with the Tax Assessor's office to enable seniors to sign up for tax exemptions with the town. The date and time is TBD but it will be scheduled for early March. Charlotte M. mentioned that the department managers will all have booths at the upcoming health fair sponsored in part by the EG Opioid Taskforce in March as well. There will be bus transportation for seniors from 4-6pm.

Charlotte M. provided an update about senior center membership and that there will be a designated renewal month of March each year for everyone. Charlotte stated that she has included this in the newsletter for several months to inform all current members and has told everyone who has come in to renew membership this in year about the universal renewal month coming March of 2019.

Charlotte M. informed the committee that there will be a special bus trip to the RISD museum on March 22nd. Kathy H. stated that she appreciates Charlotte M.'s efforts to plan special trips given the recent transitions.

Charlotte M. provided the committee with updates from Cathy Bradley, the Director of Community Services and Parks.

The committee discussed the possibility of purchasing a new BINGO machine for the center. Preliminary estimates from IT have indicated the new machine may cost up to fifteen thousand dollars. Kathy H. and Virginia A. would like to see the money more spread out and not used only for a new BINGO machine. Kathy H. and Virginia A. suggested spending the funds on an education series for senior enrichment type programs instead of just one single item for the center.

Charlotte M. provided an update about the pool table. Charlotte M. explained that a moving company that specializes in pool tables was consulted and determined that it would be risky to disassemble and move the 3 pieces of slate that makes up the tabletop, but offered to attempt to move the table at a cost of \$375. Pat P. asked why the moving company cannot use straps to support the table top to hold it in place. Both Terry (Mary) G. and Charlotte responded that there is a ridgeline in the tabletop that prevents this. Charlotte M. also explicated that the legs are hammered

and glued in place. The committee agreed that the table is “not worth it”. Kathy H. moved to make a suggestion to get rid of the table. Ginger A. seconded. Liz Dietz suggested investigating the cost of a used table. Charlotte M. stressed the importance of fostering activities and opportunities for socialization, especially for the male members of the center.

Pat P. asked if there was going to be another senior volunteer luncheon. Charlotte M. stated yes. Charlotte M. asked if there were any suggestions for the Valentine’s Day lunch. Pat P. suggested the center use Sweenor’s Chocolates, but noted that they will no longer provide chocolate for free. Mary (Terry) G. stated that Erin used to “pay for it out of her own pocket”. Charlotte M. explained that she did not pay for it out of her pocket, as there was a Purchase Order on file for those orders.

Virginia A. asked if the Senior Advisory Committee could try to contact EG Magazine to do a story on the committee with pictures. Virginia is looking to debunk myths or perceptions that the center is just “a bunch of old people”. Charlotte M. responded that she sent a write up with pictures to the editor in December, and never heard back. Virginia A. is concerned about stigma at the center.

Mary (Terry) G. discussed lunch ordering. She wants there to be information in the newsletter that you must order your meal in advance. Other members of the committee stated that it was still included in the newsletter. Mary (Terry) G. wants a more specific line that you “must” order in advance. Mary (Terry) G. also wants the caterer to state if there are any mushrooms in the food. Discussion then ensued about the problematic cancellations. Deborah N. suggested putting out friendly reminder flyers on the tables at lunch.

Pat P. motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mary (Terry) G. seconded.

The meeting ended at 2:14pm.