Minutes of the Commission on Aging Monthly Meeting
January 7, 2026

Attendees: Robert Berman, Marie MacDonald, Patricia Miller, E. Leon Rivers, Jeanette Rivers, Kay Sherman, Shirley Thompson, Peter Wilcox

Guests: India Rodgers (Operations and Communications Dept.), Romano Tucker (Operations and Communications Dept.) Lori Myers (Senior Services), Yvette Huyghue-Pannell (Senior Services Liaison)

Absent: Halesteen Graham Days, Rosemary Gunning, Barbara Reisner

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 pm.

Old Business

Thirty residents attended the Traveler's Chorale Winter Concert at the Bushnell on the evening of December 17.

A partnership with the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District will bring multiple Health Education Programs each month beginning in February. Topics will include healthy food options, mental health, and information about chronic diseases.

An Alzheimer's Association program that was originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 was rescheduled to May 2026.

There was a discussion on suggestions to support the COA Mission within the Senior Center (Friday Lunches, Happy Hour Plus Events, etc.)

- Mission Statement: Our mission is to honor the dignity and diversity of our citizens who are age 55 or older through health, nutrition, transportation, and social programs that support and enhance the quality of life.

New Business

India Rodgers, Director of Operations and Communications spoke about the current budget for commissions within the town. She stated she would like the budget to remain the same for Fiscal Year 2027. Ms. Rodgers also stated that she would like to stay in contact more with the senior population and would be attending the Commission on Aging meetings quarterly. Ms. Rodgers asked the commission members about what they do throughout the year and it was mentioned that they have been having speakers come to their monthly meetings as well as helping out with the Senior Expo in September.

Bob Berman then spoke about in previous years the commission traveled to various housing developments within town such as Federation Homes, Interfaith Village, Coventry Place and Woodside Village. These visits would take place during the monthly COA scheduled meetings and would be used to see what the residents' needs are. The commission spoke about doing this again in 2026 from March to June.

Ms. Rodgers did let everyone know that it is a requirement that annually the Commission Chari and Staff Liaison must report to the Town Council annually on hat has been accomplished through the commission. This helps to ensure the mission statement is being met.

Public Comments

Pat Miller, Leon Rivers, Bob Berman and India Rodgers spoke about the Board and Commission application that must be completed to be a member. It was discussed that the questions need updating to better reflect what is required of a member. It was mentioned that some questions must remain the same because it is required that all political parties are represented even though this can be difficult when the town is predominately Democratic.

An Aging in Place Safely Grant informational flyer was distributed. The grant application period was extended until January 15, 2026. If awarded, residents who meet the application requirements could receive up to $5000 for home repairs. More information as well as how to apply for the grant can be found by calling 860-882-0675.

Ms. Yvette asked the members what they would like to purchase as their giveaway for the Senior Expo. Some suggestions were larger pill boxes than the ones given away last year. It was also suggested that everyone look at some provided catalogs for options.

Peter Wilcox made a motion to accept the December 3, 2025, minutes; Robert Berman seconded. The minutes are approved.

Patricia Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Shirley Thompson and Kay Sherman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 pm.

The next meeting will take place at 12:30 pm on February 4, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Myers