AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – September 15, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Youth Room, ENO Memorial Hall
Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Edward LaMontagne called the meeting to order at **6:02 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance

Present: Edward LaMontagne, Jan Beatty, Margaret Haldeman, Jennifer Kirkland, Deb Glass, Sandee Fleet, Terry Henault, Libby Easton-May, Claire Corbett, Valerie Finney, Anne Erickson, Cheryl Cook, Kathleen Marschall (Senior Center Coordinator), Lisa Miceli (Library Liaison), and Diana Yeisley (Board of Selectmen Liaison).

Excused: Mike Jennings, Jen Seiderer, and Danielle Hill.

Public Audience/Public Comment

No public comments were noted.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **June 16, 2026** regular meeting were presented for approval. Motion by Valerie Finney and seconded by Sandee Fleet. All voted in favor.

Board of Selectmen Report – Diana Yeisley

- A September 14th public hearing addressed the veterans' property tax exemption. No action taken.
- The Ethics Code was amended.
- Information regarding the November 3 Charter revision referendum will be mailed to residents.
- Grant applications and awards were reviewed, including funding for the Memorial Pool splash pad redesign, Apple Barn, Eno Hall, and the Library Teen Space.
- Funding for the Eno Hall renovation was secured.
- The North Central Area Agency on Aging awarded **$5,000** grant for additional Senior Center lunches.

- Mobi mats, secured with funds from the AARP Community Challenge grant, are on hand and are ready for use.

Senior Center Report – Kathleen Marschall

- The September 2nd Police Picnic was attended by **170 seniors**.
- The September/October *Communicator* is available.
    - Upcoming programs include the October 8th Fashion Show, October 15th Elder Fraud Lunch & Learn about elder fraud and October 22nd flu clinic.
- Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' staff will be onsite October 14th for Caseworker on Your Corner.
- Budget summaries were distributed.

Library Report – Lisa Miceli

- The 2026 Summer Reading Program was the library's most successful, with more than **3,300 participants**.
- September programs and activities include the Aging in Place Expo, Sensory Storytime, and Library Card Sign-Up Month.
- A draft of the library's strategic planning goals and activities is in progress.
- The **Conversation and Connection: Reading to Connect** program will be held monthly in partnership with Social Services, the Aging & Disability Commission, and Skybrook.
- The Laptop Connect Program offers 10 laptops for long-term loan.

Age-Friendly Community – Jan Beatty

- Jan Beatty attended the CT AgeWell Collaborative's AgeWell Fest on September 15th.
- West Hartford is pursuing AARP Age-Friendly Community designation.
- The Aging in Place Expo is scheduled for September 18th. The new Simsbury Services magnet was shown to the commission and will be available at the expo.
- A walk audit is being planned with the Department of Public Works.
- Upcoming technology initiatives include a September 24th conversation with McLean and a Technology Café at the Senior Center sponsored by Westminster School.

Program Updates

Summer Fun Fest – July 18th: Attendance was lower than anticipated, in large part due to inclement weather. The Commission thanked volunteers, supporters, participants, commissioners and spouses, and community partners. Activities included entertainment, food, door prizes, Touch-A-Truck, and a community art project celebrating the USA's 250th anniversary.

Summer Luncheon – July 30th: Themed to celebrate America's 250th birthday; approximately **60 attendees**.

Planning for the Future Seminar – August 27th: Ten attendees participated, including five online. A January online seminar on diagnosing dementia is planned.

Sweet Connections – October 4th: Scheduled from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at the library. Activities will include trivia, bingo, ice cream flavor guessing, and gift cards.

Souper Thursday/Fashion Show – October 8th: Scheduled from 12:00–2:00 p.m. at Eno Memorial Hall. Approximately 25 models are confirmed. Antonio's will provide catering.

Sensory Halloween – October 28th: Scheduled from 4:30–6:30 p.m.; setup begins at 2:30 p.m.

Sensory Christmas – December 12th: Planning is underway; sponsorships and activity support are being sought.

Old Business

- **Coffee with Commissioners:** Upcoming dates are October 13th, October 27th, November 10th, and December 8th.

New Business

- **Age Well Across CT:** The Simsbury Police Department was chosen as a 2026-2027 Age Well Across Connecticut organization, in part, because it has demonstrated a strong commitment to accessibility by combining education with enforcement.
- **Caregiving Support Group:** The Commission discussed establishing a support group open to caregivers generally, not limited to dementia-related caregiving. Potential moderators and community partners were discussed.
- **Simsbury Community Media:** The commission will be producing a monthly program on Simsbury Community Media. Aging programs will be called Vintage Voices and disability programs will be called Capable Communities. The first program is scheduled to be aired in early November.
- **Commission Reappointments:** Eight commissioners' terms in office are set to expire in January 2027. Six have agreed to be reappointed and two will be resigning due to health reasons.

Other Business

- The Commission discussed an accessible parking video being developed with the Police Department.
- Necessity to update household information for emergency alerts concerning residents with disabilities was mentioned
- The Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit (https://nursing.gwu.edu/age-friendly-ecosystem-summit) will offer virtual presentations on Thursdays in October.
- Appreciation was expressed to Danielle Hill for contacting the Board of Selectmen regarding cooling centers during the July holiday weekend.
- Jennifer Kirkland compiled information regarding voting resources for residents with disabilities. A resource poster and improved coordination with the Registrars of Voters were discussed.
- Improved Town Hall signage regarding meeting locations and schedules was discussed.
- Easter seals/Spark CT were identified as potential resources for disability employment services and training.
- **October Guest Speaker:** Michael Grant of Senior Helpers is scheduled to present.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at **7:33 p.m.**

Next Meeting: October 20, 2026 – 6:00 p.m., Eno Memorial Hall