AGING AND DISABILITY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – October 20, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Youth Room, ENO Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Call to Order
Chairman Edward LaMontagne called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance
Present: Edward LaMontagne, Jan Beatty, Margaret Haldeman, Libby Easton-May, Valerie Finney, Anne Erickson, Mike Jennings, Jen Seiderer, Danielle Hill, Kathleen Marschall (Senior Center Coordinator), and Lisa Miceli (Library Liaison).

Excused: Claire Corbett, Deb Glass, Jennifer Kirkland, Terry Henault, and Diana Yeisley (Board of Selectmen Liaison).

Absent: Sandee Fleet

Public Audience/Public Comment
Sara McGuire attended to learn more about the Commission.

Guest Speaker
Michael Grant of Senior Helpers, Northwest Hartford (https://www.seniorhelpers.com/ct/windsor/) was invited as the guest speaker. He explained the services available for Simsbury residents

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the September 15, 2026, regular meeting, were approved.

Board of Selectmen Report – Diana Yeisley
- The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved a property tax exemption for veterans who qualify for Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU), including exemptions for surviving spouses.
- Early voting at the library began October 19 and will continue through November 1. Election Day is November 3, with polls open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the usual general election polling locations.
- **Fiscal Year-End Results:** The Town reported a surplus of approximately $3.6 million for fiscal year 2025–2026, including $2.34 million in revenue and $1.25 million in expenditure savings. Major revenue contributors included interest income, building permits, conveyance taxes, and overdue tax collections. Expenditure savings primarily resulted from police vacancies, employee benefits, and debt service.
- **Apple Barn:** The Town received $300,000 and is proposing an additional $600,000 for design, implementation, and site preparation to support potential renovation or new construction. The Durable Medical Equipment Loan Locker will be considered in future planning, and a stakeholder meeting is planned to assess its needs.

- **Library Funding:** The Board of Selectmen voted to restore $23,000 to the Library budget for materials previously cut.
- **Budget Review:** The Board of Finance will review year-end savings, the budget, and related proposals.

Senior Center Report – Kathleen Marschall

- The November/December issue of the *Communicator* is available online: Senior Communicator – November/December 2026.
- Upcoming programs and activities include:
  - St. Mary's Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 18.
  - Holiday Luncheon on December 10.
  - Holiday wreath-making with the Simsbury Garden Club.
  - Val's paper-crafting program.
- A flu clinic is scheduled for October 22 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday technology help continues, with two attendees assisted by eight Westminster School students.
- Budget information was shared.

Library Report – Lisa Miceli

- The Board of Selectmen approved restoring $23,000 to the Library budget for materials previously cut. The Board of Finance will review the budget.
- Early voting at the library began October 19 and will continue through November 1.

Age-Friendly Community – Jan Beatty

- The AgeWell Collaborative shared information about an upcoming Southbury program, "How Can We Age in Place and Grow Older at Home," featuring McKala Savits of Connecticut Public. The program is scheduled for November 5 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- The Age Well Avon Community Resource Guide was discussed as a resource: Avon Community Resource Guide.
- AARP virtual meetings addressed age-friendly housing approaches, including "From Barriers to Belonging."
- Duxbury, Massachusetts, was noted for its tax relief program, which allows eligible residents to earn income to help reduce their property tax burden.
- Suggestions from the North Central group included co-housing, intergenerational housing, and the village model.
- The George Washington University Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit offers virtual presentations every Thursday. A session on care partners in crisis was noted.
- Senior Planet technology tips for caregivers were identified as a resource.
- The Age-Friendly Community subcommittee needs a sixth member. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m.
- McLean was noted as a partner in the Age-Friendly Community project. A September 24 program at McLean focused on technology for seniors and its use.
- A town-wide walk-and-roll audit, focusing primarily on Hopmeadow Street, is planned for spring.

Program Updates

Sweet Connections – October 4

- Approximately 55 people attended the multigenerational event, which was supported by Grassroots and teen volunteers.

- Activities included games and ice cream-related activities.
- The next program is tentatively planned for April 11, 2027.

Souper Thursday/Fashion Show – October 8

- Approximately 125 people attended the luncheon and fashion show, including 28 models.

Sensory Halloween – October 28

- The event is scheduled for 4:30–6:30 p.m.
- Setup will take place from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., with cleanup from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
- Nine trick-or-treat tables and four activity tables are planned.
- Promotion through flyers and social media was encouraged.

Souper Thursday – November 19

- The luncheon will feature a Veterans Day theme.

Souper Thursday/Christmas Luncheon – December 10

- The holiday luncheon is scheduled for December 10.

Sensory Christmas – December 12

- Planning is underway for the December 12 event.

Old Business

- **Simsbury Community Media:** The Commission's programs, *Vintage Voices* (aging) and *Capable Communities* (disability), were discussed.
    - The November 4 program will feature Kristen Formanek discussing food pantry resources and energy assistance.
    - Suggestions for a January program topic are needed.
    - Additional hosts are needed.
- **Tuesday Tech Help:** The program continues with participation from Westminster School students, as noted in the Senior Center report.
- **Coffee with Commissioners:** Upcoming dates are October 27, November 10, and December 8.
    - Valerie Finney participated on October 13 and shared a practice of honoring the town's oldest resident.
- **Voting for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities:** Election Day is November 3. Curbside voting and other accommodations will be available at polling locations.

New Business

- **Technology Luncheon at McLean:** The September 24 program on technology for seniors was reviewed as part of the Age-Friendly Community initiative.
- **2027 Meeting Dates:** The proposed 2027 meeting dates were distributed and approved.
- **New Multigenerational Community Center:** The proposed additional $600,000 for Apple Barn design, implementation, and site preparation was discussed in connection with the potential development of a new multigenerational community center.
- **Tax Relief for Older Adults:** Duxbury Mass tax relief program was discussed as a potential model. Further information and discussion are anticipated.

Other Business

- **Age Well Across Connecticut:** The Simsbury Police Department was selected as a 2026–2027 Age Well Across Connecticut organization, in part because of its demonstrated commitment to accessibility through a combination of education and enforcement.
- **Mobi Mats:** The use of Mobi Mats was discussed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., Eno Memorial Hall.

Submitted by,

Margaret Haldeman
Clerk