



WATERTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
LOWER-LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD, WATERTOWN, CT
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.**

I. Call Meeting to Order:

Chair Melanie Flaherty called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Melanie Flaherty, Chair
Loretta Lambert, Vice Chair
Heather Chace
Debra Desena
Sally Kuslis
Al Mickel
Krista Palomba
Carol Stepanek

ABSENT: Vacancy

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Carew, Parks & Recreation Director, Laura Garay – Senior Coordinator/Municipal Agent

III. Election of Officers:

Lisa Carew entertained nominations for Chair.
Carol Stepanek nominated Melanie Flaherty for Chair.
Sally Kuslis seconded the nomination.

Are there any other nominations?
Are there any other nominations?
Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none.
Closed nominations.
All in favor

Unanimous – Melanie Flaherty

Chair Melanie Flaherty entertained nomination for Vice Chair.
Melanie Flaherty nominated Loretta Lambert as Vice Chair.
Alan Mickel seconded the nomination.

Are there any other nominations?
Are there any other nominations?
Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none.
Closed nominations.
All in favor
Unanimous – Loretta Lambert

Chair Melanie Flaherty entertained nomination for Secretary.
Sally Kuslis nominated Alan Mickel for Secretary.
Heather Chace seconded the nomination.

Are there any other nominations?
Are there any other nominations?
Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none.
Closed nominations.
All in favor

Unanimous – Al Mickel

IV. Public Comment:
None.

V. Correspondence:

- Appointment letter to COA for Krista Palomba
- Schedule of 2023 COA meetings
- Town Council approved holidays
- New Opportunities – Meals on Wheels Statistics
- Adopted Town Council Public Participation guidelines
- Adopted Town Council Bylaws for Watertown Commission on Aging

VI. Approval of Minutes:

- A. January 19, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Motion: Loretta Lambert seconded by Sally Kuslis to approve the Regular Meeting of January 19, 2023.

Motion approved

VII. Reports:

- A. Chairman

Melanie Flaherty reported:

- Welcomed Krista Palomba to the commission.

- B. Parks & Recreation Director

Lisa Carew reported:

- The proposed Senior Services Budget was included tonight, many special events are scheduled – the 1st being the Shamrock Shuffle Road Race, Memorial Day Parade, summer concerts, block parties, movies, farmers markets, etc.

- C. Senior Center Coordinator/Municipal Services –

Laura Garay reported:

January

- Only “special” was Anna Basile’s Pasta Fajle, soup lunch – includes soup, bread cannoli’s
- Launch of myseniorcenter.com – the company has been very supportive registering people for the new system has been fairly smooth.
- The “Oz Room” – lower-level green room, has a family collection of Wizard of Oz collectables on display.

February

- Crafty Tuesdays

- Animal Control Officer Judy Olmstead and Lolo the police comfort dog visited FASC
- Movie & popcorn - seniors watch "Mama Mia" was a lot of fun
- Chili Cook -off over 30 people attended, 3 judges were Firemen from the Watertown Fire Department
- Bingo with Bean Bags in a football field pattern.
- Valentines Day party Friday, February 17th – both buses will be going to Ocean State Job Lots in Litchfield then Lunch at JTD's Brickhouse in Thomaston. 36 people registered.

Upcoming this month

- cooking with Corky
Ms. Corky Plourde volunteers Book Club

March

- AAA Sage Driving Course
- Cooking with Corky
- Big East Basketball Party
- Crafty Tuesday
- Sloopy Joe lunch
- trip to the newly renovated Lutheran Home in Southbury on March 15th, The Lutheran Home has been a major sponsor of special events at the center.

Municipal Agent report

Laura Garay reported:

- Social services items have escalated so far, she done over 70 energy assistances.
Very busy at the FASC

Heather Chace brought up about changing electrical providers.

All were concerned and stated to review your options – 9-month contract, 18 months, 3 years. Be very aware if you switch You understand what you are signing.

VIII. Old Business:

A. Community/Senior Center Update –

Lisa Carew reported:

- The most current information - the proposal is dated 3/2022 and the history with the Town Council minutes and their resolution regarding this.

IX. New Business:

Alan Mickel asked about the protocols of their meetings regarding public participation guidelines – adopted by Town Council December 5, 2016.

Alan Mickel want's it called public participation not public comment.

The COA is following the same procedure as the Town Council regarding the agenda.

X. Adjournment:

Motion: Sally Kuslis seconded by Alan Mickel to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Motion approved

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Flaherty, Chair
Watertown Commission on Aging

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk