

**Minutes of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (“CoA”) Meeting
September 18, 2023, 2:30 pm, Small Conference Room, Town Hall**

Commissioner Andrea Beebe called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm. Commissioners Saleeby, Connor, Martin, Bancel, Culhane and Beebe were present. Absent were Commissioner Noyes and Commission Chair Ternullo who was excused because of international travel.

Also present were: Mr. Tony Phillips , Town of Ridgefield Director of Social Services and CoA ex officio advisor and Karen Gaudian, Town of Ridgefield Municipal Agent for Seniors and ex officio advisor to the CoA. In the audience and also present were: Debi Orr, Jan Rifkinson and David Tait.

As the first order of business of public comment, Ms. Orr identified herself as a realtor who services primarily older clientele and focuses on housing for seniors. She came for information purposes. A discussion followed about availability in town.

As the second order of business the minutes of the 6/26/2023 minutes were approved and so moved by Ms. Martin and seconded by Ms. Saleeby and passed unanimously.

As the third order of business, Ms. Martin displayed and distributed the Rack Cards. She complimented Ms. Beebe for gathering the information printed on the cards. Ms. Martin asked for assistance distributing them around town.

Ms. Martin reported that the Senior Directory has been finalized after months of editing by many. The original estimate of number of copies has been increased to 8,000 from 6,000 booklets. Ms. Martin will be obtaining a revised estimate of printing and mailing costs shortly. She reported that hopefully, the Directory would be mailed by mid October.

As the fourth order of business Ms. Saleeby reported that the free movies at The Ridgefield Playhouse have become very popular and attendance is growing. The next movie is on September 26 and subsequent movies will continue until November 7, 2023.

Mr. Connor reported that the first session of the Senior Voices was very successful with approximately 80 people in attendance. Ms. Beebe read a list of the topics raised by audience participants. It was suggested that future programming could include inviting the Tax Assessor, Elder Law Attorney, Transportation, Housing, RVNA and more representatives from town agencies.

As the sixth order of business Mr. Phillips announced that the Needs Assessment Survey is now completed and will be launched shortly. The assistance from other stakeholders will be organized to distribute it.

As the seventh order of business Ms. Beebe announced that the CoA will recruit for the open position on the board focusing on a commitment to service and able to offer advice, introductions or other skills. Upcoming meetings of importance include Karen Gaudian and reps from CT Social Services presenting Long Term Care Support for Elders on September 26 at the Library, and the Medicare presentation on October 10 Senior Voices meeting at the Library. Ms. Gaudian announced Medicare Open Enrollment runs October 15 - December 7 and Social Services will provide advice to those who make appointments.

The next Board Meeting of the CoA will be held on October 16, 2023.

Carmen Martin, Commissioner, 9/18/2023

There being no other business, Ms. Beebe invited a motion to adjourn. Ms. Saleeby called for adjournment. Mr. Bancel seconded.

The above is a true and accurate summary of the CoA 9/18/23 meeting.