

**Commission on Aging Meeting**  
**Monday, March 20, 2023 at 2:30pm**  
**Town Hall Small Conference Room, 400 Main Street**

The Commission on Aging meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with respect, empathy and civility.

The Commission on the Aging shall study the needs of the elderly and coordinate municipal programs to meet those needs; and shall have powers and duties in accordance with the General Statutes and applicable ordinances.

Agenda

-Public Comment

-Welcome New Commissioners

-Vote on Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for 2023: All

-Approve Meeting Minutes from October 17th, 2022, January 23, 2023 and February 27th meetings. Meeting notes below.

[https://www.ridgefieldct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4916/f/minutes/minutes\\_oct\\_17th\\_2022\\_commission\\_on\\_aging\\_meeting\\_at\\_6.pdf](https://www.ridgefieldct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4916/f/minutes/minutes_oct_17th_2022_commission_on_aging_meeting_at_6.pdf)

## **Commission on Aging Meeting Notes October 17th, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM**

Present: Andrea Beebe, Debra Franceschini, George Noyes, Karen Guadian, Joe Ternullo

Absent: Stephanie Rowe, Maureen Culhane, Tony Phillips, Rian Malhotra

Members of the public: None

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

-Commissioners discussed self assessment survey. Results not complete yet as some commissioners submissions are still pending. Will review full results at November meeting.

-COA Website needs updating. Debra will work with Andrew from town IT to determine how she can gain access if possible.

-Andrea discussed changing the term for commissioners to a shorter term than 3 years. Debra indicated in order for that to be done it would require a town charter change.

-Transportation cards are still pending. Deb will follow up on transportation options to the library for senior programming transportation.

-Discussed Senior Surprise. Andrea review surprise with commissioners and it was discussed to partner with Founders Hall for a tea event where surprises could be given out. Andrea will also discuss musical entertainment with the RSO or another music group. Joe will follow up with Grace Weber on an event date.

-Debra discussed creating an event calendar where the commission could partner with other town stakeholders to expand our outreach and provide more seniors with various programming.

-3 commissioners discussed meeting to review events for calendar. We selected November 10th at 1pm. This meeting will require public notice and notes per FOIA regulations.

-Debra will follow up with Tony on survey collection data to be reviewed at next meeting.

-Joe discussed a homeless community grant being offered by Harvard Health. Joe will email Rudy Marconi to determine interest and viability if grant were to be received.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kORfh1JDn91KRGIGWE8BuhzGS4qtTbhtwPNXz\\_F0lWg/edit?usp=sharing\\_eil\\_m&invite=CM2Em6EJ&ts=632b498d](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kORfh1JDn91KRGIGWE8BuhzGS4qtTbhtwPNXz_F0lWg/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&invite=CM2Em6EJ&ts=632b498d)

Video of meeting can be found at the above link.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debra Franceschini  
Commission on Aging Secretary

[https://www.ridgefieldct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4916/f/minutes/jan\\_23\\_2023\\_commission\\_on\\_aging\\_meeting\\_notes.pdf](https://www.ridgefieldct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4916/f/minutes/jan_23_2023_commission_on_aging_meeting_notes.pdf)

**Commission on Aging Meeting Notes  
January 23, 2023 at 2:30pm  
Town Hall Small Conference Room, 400 Main Street**

The Commission on Aging meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with respect, empathy and civility.

Present: Joe Ternullo, George Noyes, Debra Franceschini, Clem Saleeby, Carmen Martin, Karen Guadian, Tony Phillips.

Absent: Andrea Beebe, Maureen Culhane

Meeting called to order at 2:37pm.

-Public Comment: Steve Conner introduced himself with interest in joining the commission.

-Debra made a motion to add annual officer elections to the agenda, as she forgot to do so. All were in favor of adding to agenda. An overview of Secretary and Chair responsibilities was done. After further discussion, the commission unanimously voted to hold off until February meeting for votes when the entire board would be there and give new members a chance to digest the information reviewed.

-Welcome New Members: Clem Saleeby and Carmen Martin were welcomed to the team as new commissioners.

-Library Event on Estate Planning Debrief: 36 people live, 41 via Zoom. Zoom management was a bit clunky, but overall a very successful event.

-February Event Confirmation: 2023 Federal & State Income Tax Season: The Essentials

February 7th @ 1:00pm: This educational learning session is brought to you in collaboration with the [Ridgefield Commission on Aging](#) as part of its 2023 Speaker Series. The program will be presented in person in the Library's Main Program Room and online via Zoom.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. Jon Elkow leads the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program for Ridgefield. Come join us, meet Jon,

[https://www.ridgefieldct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4916/f/minutes/coa\\_2.27.2023\\_draft\\_minutes.pdf](https://www.ridgefieldct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4916/f/minutes/coa_2.27.2023_draft_minutes.pdf)

**Ridgefield, Connecticut  
Commission on Aging  
Minutes of February 27, 2023 Meeting**

As a first order of business, Andrea Beebe, Chair of the Ridgefield Commission on Aging (CoA), called the meeting to order at 2.33 pm, welcomed all, and took a roll call:

Present: Andrea Beebe, Carmen Martin, Clemencia Saleeby, George Noyes, Karen Gaudian (Town of Ridgefield Municipal Agent for Seniors and ex officio advisor to the CoA), Tony Phillips (Town of Ridgefield Director of Social Services and ex officio advisor to the CoA) and Joseph Ternullo

Absent: Debra Franceschini-Gatje, Maureen Culhane

As a second order of business, Ms. Beebe invited public comment. Mr. Stephen Connor was in the audience and said hello to the Commissioners. Mr Peter Bancel was also in the audience and similarly greeted the Commissioners. Messrs. Connor and Bancel are both contemplating applying for the two open CoA volunteer positions and, in furtherance of their interest, were attending the meeting to learn more about the CoA and gain a perspective of the current issues. Personally and on behalf of the CoA, Ms. Beebe welcomes Mr. Connor and Mr. Bancel.

As a third order of business, Ms. Beebe proposed that the Commissioners hold a vote for the CoA chair and secretary positions and, toward that end, she invited nominations for chairperson. Mr. Ternullo motioned that the vote be deferred to the March 2023 CoA meeting, in the hopes that at that point the CoA would have a full complement of nine Commissioners. That motion was duly seconded. A discussion followed. A vote was taken. It was unanimously voted to defer voting to the March meeting.

As a fourth order of business, Ms. Beebe invited Mr. Ternullo to update the CoA on the status of the development of a CoA grant plan. Mr. Ternullo referred the Commissioners to his pre-read report which was sent to the Commissioners along with the CoA February 2023 meeting agenda. A brief discussion of the action items referenced in the pre-read report followed.

As a fifth order of business, Ms. Beebe invited Ms. Saleeby to update the CoA on the status of the development of a CoA Senior Citizen Event Plan. Ms. Saleeby made the point that many seniors are active and engaged in a myriad of Ridgefield senior citizen activities already and that a special focus should be placed on engaging and building community with those who are not. She thought that taking events right to seniors where they are (i.e. holding events in the meeting rooms at Ballard Green and Congregate housing, for example) was worthy of further consideration. The Commissioners agreed that this was a novel and worthwhile strategy to engage seniors and that it should be further pursued. A discussion followed on how the CoA reaches residents. Methods included facebook groups, collaborations with the library, Founders Hall, Meals on Wheels, etc. The discussion also included suggestions for targeted collaborations with the Playhouse, Prospector Theater and other community resources to offer an array of event opportunities for seniors. It was also suggested that the CoA be enhanced to serve as a vibrant go-to destination site for individuals looking for a single source of information catering to Ridgefield seniors. Ms. Beebe thanked Ms. Saleeby for her progress.

As a sixth order of business, Ms. Beebe invited Ms. Martin to update the CoA on the status of the development of a CoA media outreach plan. Ms. Martin referred the Commissioners to her pre-read report which was sent to the Commissioners along with the CoA February 2023 meeting agenda. A brief

-Welcome to 2023 by chair.

-Monica Stromwell -Carmen

-Review of Board & Commission Guideline docs from BOS.



## **TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD**

### **INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

-Charter Revision Document-All

-Plan on April Library info session. March 21st will be on town transportation at 1pm and the Ridgefield Library.

-Grant plan-Joe

-Senior Event Planning: Clem

-Update on Senior Guide Booklet: Joe & Deb

-New business

-Adjourn