



Woodstock  
Committee on Aging  
March 12, 2024 - Minutes  
Woodstock Town Hall, Room B

1. Chair Kevin Downer called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Kevin Downer, Kristen Kaiser, Sue Swan, Su Connor, Suzanne Woodward, Dotti Durst.  
Absent/Excused: Wendy Costa, Melissa (Missy) Jameson
3. Approval of Minutes:  
**Motion K. Kaiser seconded by S. Connor to approve the 02/27/2024 minutes of the Woodstock Committee on Aging meeting with two modifications carried unanimously.: Article 3, line 3 add the date ....February 13, 2024... and Article 4, line 2- eliminate the numerals ...56...**
4. Update and next steps regarding Senior Resources Brochure: S. Swan did bring samples to the BOS who endorsed it enthusiastically. The CoA is cleared to move ahead to the next step. The Town Hall will print the first 100 copies of the Tri-fold brochure. Distribution plans were discussed.
5. Considerations, questions, and next steps regarding codifying the CoA into the Town Ordinances: the reasons for a Town Ordinance to formally establish a Committee on Aging are \* the Committee becomes permanent, continued without question until formal action is taken by the town to dissolve it.  
\* The composition of the Committee is established, including the total number of members and alternates, as well as establishing a staggered re-appointment schedule. Discussion: sample Committee on Aging Ordinances from other Connecticut towns will be compared, to possibly serve as a template for Woodstock. K. Downer has begun that search and will continue. The Town Clerk will be asked for information about the process, and timeline for the creation of new town ordinance. S. Connor will follow up. The Committee reviewed the expectation that there will be an odd number of full members, as is customary, supported by the alternates. Suggestion; 5 full members and 3 alternates, or 7 full and 1 alternate. Other possibilities will be considered.
6. Update regarding planning for a Spring COA-related event: 1). a collaborative, regional meeting of Committees on Aging and all area service providers is at NECCOG for consideration. The topic for the forum would be How Best To Meet The Needs Of Seniors in NECT. This is not the customary NECCOG topic of what *Planning and Zoning* must do, but rather what the CoAs can do to identify the specific demographics of the area, and then find ways to provide access to the information that the sub-groups need. If it can be conducted with zero dollars from our CoA, it could be considered for Spring (May or June). If we will need access to our budget, we will target early fall. 2). The Connecticut Legislature has a Committee on Aging. D. Durst provided a list of members, as well as a summary of possible legislation that will be considered during the current session. Since Rep. Kurt Vail, District 52 (the western ½ of Woodstock) serves on that Committee, we may want to either participate in the legislative process in support of "Aging in Place" initiatives or invite Rep Vail to a forum where we can share opinions about what might be helpful to seniors regionally., which is different from the needs in communities with transportation options and other amenities.
7. Update regarding possible resources to structure and conduct a Community Survey/Report, including AARP Livable Communities and Network of Age-Friendly Communities, i.e.,

aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities : K. Downer provided extensive information about this AARP program, and identified the towns in the region which have enrolled. Whether it is feasible to begin participation in their program with a town-wide survey of needs, given that the CoA is just getting underway, sounds ideal. Research into the background and any political leanings of the AARP will be undertaken first. The next step might be to create a mock-up of a town Resolution, look at other towns for sample application forms, then determine if to take the idea to the BOS. NOTE: at the next CoA meeting (two weeks) the research should be completed by all members; the topic is tabled by consensus until the due diligence is completed and the CoA is comfortable moving ahead with AARP.

8. Conversation regarding how to make Senior-related information easily accessible/available, including Town of Woodstock CoA and MA/Agent for the Elderly webpages, postings: The town will permit postings on the CoA webpage. Our Tri-fold brochure, reconfigured to look appropriate as a two-sided document, can be utilized and may include direct links to the service providers listed. Other resources should be posted, including for mid-income seniors who have a particular issue to handle. Several examples were noted; one example is that grandparents raising grandchildren has become more prevalent, and the needs they have for the children and for themselves are not necessarily income-based. WINY's facebook could be a location to post commonly-requested information.

9. Public Comment: None

10. Other from the Committee: \*K. Downer phoned the Department of Aging for information but, despite being told that someone would return his call, he has not yet heard back. \*D. Durst: At a recent West Woodstock business ribbon-cutting, Selectman Kate McDonald noted that the BOS are observing the activities of the CoA in a positive light. \*K. Kaiser reminded everyone that at the Woodstock Hill Church Senior Social Hour, March 21 at 1:30 there will be a presentation by DKH HomeCare. \*How to be certain that Woodstock seniors who may qualify for the newly-instituted tax exemption are informed was discussed, with the possibility of a Villager article or an article appearing on the CoA webpage are being considered.

11. Correspondence and Announcements:

\*\*March 19, 5pm Probate and Senior Law Issues Town of Putnam Room 9. The Judge of Probate is hosted by the Putnam Committee on Aging.

12. Adjourn **Motion K. Downer seconded by S. Swan to adjourn at 5:55 pm carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted, Dotti Durst *Dotti Durst*  
Clerk, Woodstock Committee on Aging

*Note: These minutes of the Woodstock Committee on Aging meeting have not yet been approved. See the next meeting's Minutes for approval or any modifications as determined by the Committee.*