

# WEST HARTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

## MINUTES

January 19, 2021

Members Present: Rebecca Hajosy, Robert Kennedy, Noreen Bachteler, Rosemary Cleary, Ray Guenter, Ellen Phillips, Philip Walker  
Absent: Linda Hanson, Mary Reilly.  
Staff Present: Helen Rubino-Turco, Gina Marino, Keren Paquette, Jennifer Evan.  
Guests: Sheila Diamond, Kevin Farmer, Pamela Hillborn.

Chairman Philip Walker called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

The minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

### ***Chairman's Report***

Chairman Phil Walker noted that his term has expired, and he is not eligible for another term. He has enjoyed serving on the Commission noting that it is time for a new direction/leadership. Ray Guenter reported he contacted Amy Silverman who has agreed to rejoin the Commission and serve as the Commission's Chair. Amy should email the West Hartford Town Clerk, Essie Labrot, stating she is seeking reappointment to the Commission noting her qualifications and party affiliation. This should be done immediately in order to be reappointed at the next town Council Meeting.

### ***Rebecca Hajosy***

Rebecca Hajosy, recently appointed to the Commission, introduced herself. She is an Elder Law Attorney in West Hartford and has served on West Hartford's Disability Commission.

### ***West Hartford Social Services***

Keren Paquette reported that staff continues to work partially remote and is back on a staggered schedule. They never stopped taking referrals. The Food Pantry is seeing record amounts of food/activity. Dial-A-Ride services continue with protocols in place. Energy Assistance is extremely busy. The Choices Program continues. A flyer has been distributed providing information on how to arrange for vaccine shots. She noted that there are concerns on how homebound individuals, as well as care givers, will receive the vaccine. They are looking for guidance in serving the home bound from the State Health Department. The Governor has not indicated whether the eviction moratorium will be extended.

### ***Senior Jobs Bank***

Sheila Diamond gave a brief overview of the Senior Jobs Bank. Their current focus is on marketing targeting individuals and small businesses. Rebecca Hajosy suggested reaching out to seniors and their support groups.

### ***Transportation***

Kevin Farmer gave a brief overview of the ITN program. ITN's annual appeal is ongoing. He thanked those that have already contributed. Low-income clients can ride for free thanks to a donation by the West Hartford Rotary. Ride volume is at 40% with rides being restricted to medical purposes. They have been assisting seniors in signing up for their vaccine shots. ITN is going to be advertising for additional drivers.

### *Senior Centers*

Gina reported that registration for AARP income tax assistance is underway and rapidly filling up. The program is open only to those that participated in the past two years. A technology program has been established with the assistance of an Eagle Scout. Donations of computers and financial assistance are welcome. Technology support at this time is provided by phone. Program fees have been waived. They will be reinstated in the late spring. Membership renewal is in progress. The walking group continues with different parks being visited. A grab and go art project have been a success as well as a grab and go bagels.

### *Agenda for Future Meetings*

It was suggested that the Commission should invite a speaker from the Bloomfield/West Hartford Health District to discuss Covid 19 and the vaccination program. Helen Rubino Turco agreed to contact the District.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am on WebEx.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Kennedy, Acting Recording Secretary