

**Haddam Committee on Aging Minutes (Approved)**  
**March 18, 2024**  
**Old Town Hall**

**Chairman** Mary Lou Heger opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 10:00 am.

**Attendance** : Bob McGarry, Mary Lou Heger, Kim Gionfriddo, Kaye Burgess, Gloria Maynard, Marge DeBold, Robert Waller, Thurston Clark, Wayne Ruddy, Ron Pellerin, Mike Farina, Mary Lou Pierce, Becky Rice, Doreen Staskelunas, Jen Favalora, Sherry Carlson

**Minutes From** our last meeting were approved by the Committee with object by Thurston Clark.

**First Selectman's Report** Items to report on included the swing bridge in Tylerville NO 63-Hour Bridge Closure this week with the contractor performing overnight bridge closures. Roundabouts construction has begun off exit 7. Rossi property in Higganum center proposal was voted down, the state has given the town a six month extension to provide a plan of development, questions and answers to the negative vote occurred. Bob M. reiterated the need for the community to support the businesses in Tylerville. Mike Farina said the EDC was open to help again. Tylerville signage was discussed by the Committee with Bob W. saying he would share the folder with EDC on the existing sign and contractor. He also mentioned the Garden Club was willing to remove and replace the present sign. Discussion occurred about the EDC's wanting all the seven villages' signs same font and color. The Budget was approved by BOS. Scoville Hoe continues to be a work in progress with less than expected asbestos issues. HES' presentation of findings of the Town Building Assessment Report, will be Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at HES' Multipurpose room

**Senior Center** The Tax Relief Program for the Elderly was canceled in February due to snow and rescheduled to March 12 "State and Town Tax Relief Programs for the Elderly and Disabled" presented by Tammy Anderson, Town Assessor. Doreen said she has been working with the college intern (Jill Henry) producing a Newsletter for the Senior Center hoping to launch for April. She said the trifolds are ready for Thurston to pick up. The Senior Center was open 12 days for the month of February. Closed for 1 snow day and 1 holiday. The Haddam Senior Center distributed 120 Estuary Meals for the month of February 2024 and had 214

attendees at the Senior Center. 6 seniors attended the Craft, 7 seniors attended The Estuary trip to the Culinary Institute of America, 6 seniors attended the CRAHD Heart Health Program, 15 seniors attended Pizza and a Movie.

**Social Services** During February were assisted by: Haddam Emergency Food Bank serviced a total of 60 adults and 20 children, serviced 2 families with gift cards to local restaurants and/ or grocery stores in town. The Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank serviced a total of 4 families with fuel assistance: 2- Oil, 1- Electricity, 0- Pellets, 1- Propane. Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank serviced 3 individuals with paperwork assistance. Haddam Social Services/ Clothing Bank serviced 130 people with clothing. Haddam Social Services had 0 wellness checks for February 2024. The Senior Van serviced 8 medical appointments for February, transported 8 seniors to/ from Senior Center, and 19 seniors in total attended the weekly shopping trip for February 2024.

**Youth and Family Services** HKYFS reported their new contract clinician, Denise Grodzicki, has filled all of her available appointments for mental health therapy. This month, HKYFS launched a new program “Substance Free Athletics” teaching coaches, parents, and athletes what alcohol, marijuana and nicotine can do to their game and why choosing not to use has value to themselves and the whole team. HKYFS will be hosting QPR Suicide Awareness as well as Narcan training in May as part of their Mental Health Awareness Month. Finally, HKYFS is planning a Summer Solstice family event in June at Parmelee Farms which will feature music and family fun.

**CRAHD** Sherry Carlson spoke about the CDC lifting of the Covid isolation, need to be fever free for 24 hours, please practice good respiratory habits. No current numbers on covid other than it's 90% less than in the 7 towns she services. Please check out on CDC website. Its tick season please beware, if you want a tick tested please bring it in. Blood lead levels in children are decreasing, believed to be due to education for older home owners with children. There is an uptake in tuberculosis and measles throughout our state as throughout the world. Questions and answers from the Committee occurred.

**Club 60** There will be a meeting of Haddam's Club 60 today. We will discuss a proposal of changing our bylaws to read that Club 60 will meet once a month as opposed to the current two times a month. Gene Grenier, a Club 60 member, will provide the entertainment.

**COA picnic** JoAnn left a signup sheet for the picnic.

**New Business** Kaye asked for next month new business for the committee to decide whether present officers will continue to December having a vote or new officers will be elected in June for a six month interim.

**Old Business items continued to next month**

-The first item of business is the Bylaws are still under review by the subcommittee which will meet March 29<sup>th</sup>.

-Update continues on the telephone and contact list for all new members, Bob W in the lead.

**Goals/Projects for 2023/24**

**Adjournment** Motion made 11:10 and accepted by attendees.

Kaye Burgess, Secretary

**Next meeting Monday April 15, 2024  
at Old Town Hall**