

# *Branford Commission of Services for the Elderly*

Laurie Rockwell – Chair  
Jean Richo  
Patricia B. Torre

Patricia Brownell-Co-Chair  
Luba Mebert Schmid  
Mary Hahn

Dana Murphy  
Ellen Carucci  
Alpha Coiro

## **Meeting Minutes September 12, 2024**

Call to Order - The Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Chair Laurie Rockwell. Also present: Ellen Carucci, Pat Torre, Pat Brownell and Alpha Coiro. Assistant Director Nancy Cohen and First Selectman James Cosgrove were also in attendance.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the February 8, 2024 Meeting – A correction on the minutes – Item V. “The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, **2024** (not 2023). On a motion by Pat Brownell and seconded by Pat Torre, the amended minutes were unanimously approved.
- II. Nancy Cohen presented the Assistant Director’s Report. General discussion regarding medical rides, rides to and from the center, Energy Assistance applications, and Renter’s Rebate applications were addressed. The Short-Term Investment fund is doing well. As for programming, there is a Retirement Party planned for Dagmar on 9/30, the Literacy program is being expanded to include Sliney School, the Pen Pal program continues to grow, fitness class participation is booming along with the Watercolors classes and meditation classes. Nancy talked about a wonderful transportation offering called the Encompass Program. Coffee is being served in the Waverly Room with the anticipation of expanded offerings.
- III. The First Selectman addressed the Commission regarding a variety of topics, including Dagmar’s Retirement, the Programming and Services that are provided by Canoe Brook and the staffing vacancies and the actions being taken to insure stability to continue providing the services our residents deserve as we all work together during this period of transition. He is looking forward to being able to expand the social aspects of the center with more welcoming spaces to encourage socialization, enhancing food programs and embracing local activities. The Commissioners questioned the First Selectman about the timeline to fill empty positions, especially the Director’s slot, and they have appealed for immediate action. Extensive discussion ensued, and the Commissioners look forward to presenting additional thoughts and recommendations to the First Selectman in an effort to assist the Town in continuing to move forward to enable Canoe Brook to fulfill the vision anticipated by all those involved in the new building’s construction several years ago.
- IV. Citizen’s Comments – None.
- V. On a motion from Pat Brownell, Seconded by Alpha Coiro, by unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Doreen F. Denhardt, Commission Clerk.