

Advisory Council to the Greene County Department for the Aging
October 8, 2024 Meeting

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Richard Golden

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call of Members: 8 – R Golden, L VanEtten, F Ohle, E Bloomer, Ann Krieg, C Mabey, D True and M Whitbeck

Staff: T Bone, M Murphy and R Pforte Excused: Kim Kaplan

Guest: Jim Carr, Greene County Veterans

C. Secretary’s Report

September Minutes: Motion by Florence Ohle, second by Linda VanEtten to accept as written; approved

D. Old Business

- District 3, Athens Representative
Paperwork was never submitted for Marcus McGregor. In lieu of this, Ed Bloomer will assume the vacancy. Re-appointment to Legislature for 2025 will note such.
- Members reminded to advise Maureen if they wish to stay on council for 2025

E. New Business

- Four Year Plan – Deputy Director Tami Bone
Distributed hand-out to all members present. Members not in attendance are asked to contact Tami for a copy.

Public Hearing to be held on October 29 at 1pm at Rivertown Senior Center, Athens; may do other locations later

Narrative:

What we plan to do for county senior citizens over next 4 years

Good communication is important so public knows who we are & what we do

Network with other agencies (i.e. Catskill Mountain Housing, Veterans Services, Community Action, etc.)

Budget: Always low & would appreciate more from NYS – Tami stated that this is set by NYS based on population of those over 60 residing in county

- **Dotty True: Stated we are a small county & cuts hurt more than in larger counties; we are restricted under such cuts while larger counties may not feel impact; we can’t offer some services that larger counties can**

On motion by Dot True, seconded by Ed Bloomer, membership approved a motion to include need for more funding in plan

Primary needs in plan: 1) Housing, 2) Aide shortage, 3) Transportation

- **Linda VanEtten: Greene County has high senior population, in some restricted areas; causes seniors to be isolated from the delivery of services. What do we have to attract to MtnTop? Tami stated that our aide contracts offer a \$2 per hour incentive + mileage for aides**

Budget cuts: Unknown at present but only area that may be affected is EISEP(Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly); possibly decreased

Members are requested to review plan & submit any comments or questions to Tami at tbone@greencountyny.gov

F. Program Reports

Volunteers (Ruth Pforte):

- Prospective new volunteers: **3**
- Completed 2025 grant application & submitted on 8/18
Competitive; increased to \$75,000 + \$350 per volunteer with 20% for Community Needs
Applying for \$140,450 (\$75,000 + \$65,450 for 187 volunteers)
County's match has been reduced from 30% to 10%
- Medical transportation for August was 114 rides
- Helping Hands: 3 requests; clients have been contacting Rotary members directly & not informing Ruth
- Volunteer Recognition
126 attended
School (FCCLA) did set-up & was wait staff
Presentation of Colors by American Legion & Catskill HS Jazz Band entertained
Elected Officials present: Greene County Legislature Chairman Pat Linger (served as MC), and Assemblyman Chris Tague & Senator Michelle Hinchey presented certificates to honorees
 - **Charlene Mabey: Asked question on recruitment procedure. Suggested direct contact with churches & eye-catching flyer to keep in their mind - visualize. Suggested "coffee hour" at churches with direct contact.**
 - **Any members with ideas on getting word out about need for volunteers are asked to contact Ruth.**

Nutrition (Tezera Pulice):

- In process of hiring new cook for Rivertown
- Rivertown, Catskill & Coxsackie will be closed on 10/11 for new appliances to be installed at Rivertown
- Several routes quite lengthy; hoping for volunteers so routes can be divided

Aging Services (Danielle Kane):

- Most things status quo
- Looking for new dedicated aide through Unlimited
- Not renewing contracts with Home Helpers or Marquis

Deputy Director/Finance (Tami Bone):

- 2024 Budget update – Status quo
- 2025 Budget – Part of 4-year plan; have updated as needed
Public Hearing on county budget: October 28, 6pm, Catskill High School
- Senior Anels:
Donor letters out in mail
Several requests from Seniors for beds
 - **Florence Ohle: Number of senior homeless increasing; more demand for help**
 - **Dick Golden – Suggested checking with SERTA in Coxsackie for assistance (Per Tami, right now we use Furniture Plus & the have been very helpful)**
- Senior Day
Very successful despite some glitches
Very enjoyable meal
 - **Florence Ohle: Suggested alternatives to meal be offered to accommodate vegetarians, gluten-free, etc.**

Director's Report (Tami Bone in absence of Kim Kaplan)

- Staffing
Hiring cook for Athens

Looking into return of Aging Services Aide position to help Ruth; would either assist as needed or just do Medical Transportation

➤ **Charlene Mabey – Suggested contacting CGCC; may have interested candidates in their Human Services program; possibly intern could help**

Kim serving as Interim Director; county is in process of seeking permanent one

G. Member Announcements:

- Dick Golden – Keeps supply of wheelchairs at Town of Coxsackie Center (presently out)
Walk-in cooler donated by area restaurant to Coxsackie Food Pantry
Florence will provide Dick with information on Ag & Market Grants that might help
October 19 – Rotary Coat Drive at YMCA
- Florence Ohle – October is Domestic Violence Month; several events planned to include
Thursday October 10 at Bridge Street Theater
Weatherization open
Not doing Thanksgiving Dinner this year; other area options (NE Food Bank, Jefferson Heights Pharmacy)
STEH (Solutions to End Homeless) – Program opened 10/1; Contact Community Action or DSS for information
- Dorothy True – Cairo Bears auction very successful; fundraiser to benefit community
Complimented Ruth Pforte on a job well done
Question on health insurance (St Peters not accepting United HealthCare; very confusing to seniors)
➤ **Tami stated we have a HICAP (health insurance) counselor on staff who could assist**
- Charlene Mabey – Stressed need to reach out for volunteers
➤ **Dick Golden suggested contacting YMCA to see if will allow a flyer**
- Ed Bloomer – Sponsoring a Pumpkin Bash with Vet 2 Vet (see attached flyer)
- Molly Whitbeck (Catskill Mountain Housing):
Has requested additional funding for RESTORE, Home Repair Program, Home Funds (ramps)
Eastview Apartments – Low-income family units in Cairo, no wait list presently
Changes coming for subsidized housing under HUD – clients with assets will need to spend down, i.e. retirement funds; over income will be over (even if just a few dollars); if violate & audited would jeopardize entire program
CMH prioritizes clients – extremely low income, below income & border-line low income
- Jim Carr (Greene County Veterans Services):
More claims being acted on
Veteran of Year event (see attached flyer)

H. Adjournment – Motion by Molly Whitbeck, seconded by Linda Van Etten
(Thank you to Linda for the delicious cookies!)

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Murphy, Office Manager **Approved by quorum 01/14/25.**

**GREENE COUNTY
HONORING OUR VETERANS**
LEGISLATOR PATRICK LINGER, CHAIRMAN



**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
SM1C STANLEY MALTZMAN**

November 2, 2024

10:00AM

**HISTORIC CATSKILL POINT WAREHOUSE
CATSKILL, NY**

MICHELLE ROMALIN DEYO, DIRECTOR



*Vet 2 Vet of Greene County
&
Homefront Harvest*

PRESENTS

PUMPKIN BASH

October 25th ,2024

4pm - 8pm

**Homefront Harvest
529 County Route 49
Coxsackie NY 12051**

BONFIRE

HAYRIDES

PUMPKIN
CARVING

SMORES

RSVP BY OCT.20TH - ARIN VANDEMARK
ARIN.VANDEMARK@HVNCVR.ORG
(518) 719 - 0020 OR TEXT (518) 653-8871

LIGHT FARE WILL BE PROVIDED / WELCOME TO
BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND DRINKS

