Commission on Aging

TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, September 25, 2026
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall
2:00 pm

Present: Chairman Ron Foligno, Linda Randall, Paul McGeary, Debra Gilbert Taylor, Evelyn Wiesner and Eve Rothbard

Also Present: Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Officer and Jacqueline Vega, Executive Director, Stern Village

Absent: Mark Ryan and Kathleen Bordelon

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Mr. Foligno followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
No public comment.

Guest Speakers
Officers Ryan Tantimonico and Kyle Siljamaki from the Trumbull PD Traffic Division were present to address traffic concerns of seniors. Topics included speed limits, various State laws and Town ordinances, hand held phones, school busses, work zones and speed enforcement cameras. It was noted the Town does not have speed enforcement cameras but plate technology is available in some vehicles. The key take away was to extend courtesy to other drivers, drive defensively and not be aggressive.

Past Minutes
Ms. Gilbert Taylor motioned to approve the minutes of August 28, 2026; seconded by Mr. McGeary. Motion approved with one abstention from Ms. Wiesner.

Reports
Senior Center Report
Ms. Katske reported the following for the Senior Center:

1. The next big event is holiday bingo in December.

2. Social Services in inundated with energy assistance applications and holiday collections for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hannukah.

Stern Village

Ms. Vega reported the following:

1. Application process was open from September 4 – 18. No longer are excepting applications but received a plethora during that timeframe. Anyone accepted to the Wait List will be advised October 1 via mail. There are currently some unit openings awaiting rehabs prior to leasing. There are 24 applicants on the Wait List for the Village. Congregate accepts applications at any time and the current Wait List is 32.
2. Commissioner Terms – Commissioners were reminded to request reappointment if their terms are up and they wish to remain on the Commission. Mrs. Katske will verify dates.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Foligno noted the following:

1. Veteran Center update was given. Construction is moving along and expected to be enclosed by the time cold weather arrives. Donations continue to be received. Plaques are still available for purchase for the Wall of Honor.
2. Volunteer Programs – Ms. Katske noted revaluation is being completed; volunteer program review has not been started. Revaluation will be completed by October 1 with the grand list approved in January; July 2027 tax bills will reflect any changes.
3. Homestead Act is being reviewed.
4. Discussion was held regarding the repair of the current Center and if an estimate could be provided. These figures are being worked on by Mr. Estrada.
5. American Legion Fishing Derby was cancelled.
6. Public comment from the August meeting was reviewed. Referendum process was reviewed noting the Commission would need to work with the Town Council. Outreach and education is a key component when moving forward. Discussion was held regarding funding and communication challenges.

New Business

No new business.

Old Business

1. COACT Meeting Update – Mr. McGeary noted three upcoming events for the group. Progress letter is attached.
    a. September 30 , 4-5 pm – Representative Jane Garibay, Chairman of the legislature's Committee on Aging, will speak on the committee's legislative priorities, plus a primer on how to educate and influence your elected representatives.
    b. October 30, 3-4 pm – a listening session by the leadership of the CT Bureau of Aging to give the opportunity for direct input into the State Plan on Aging.

c. October 6, a chance to meet in person with other COAs' and similar organizations' leaders and members across the State as part of a strategy to break down silos of COAs and learn from and support each other.

2. Funding for Commissioners to attend seminars was discussed. Ms. Katske noted this can be requested in the upcoming budget year.

1. Update – Website Content – Ms. Gilbert Taylor noted the content is being reviewed.
2. Ms. Gilbert Taylor will work on the task of compiling fraud prevention information.
3. Concerns of and Concerns for Senior Citizens – no additional discussion.

Next Meeting

Friday, October 23, 2026.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Randall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:19 pm; seconded by Ms. Rothbard and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

COACT progress letter

Hello from COACT - the Commissions on Aging in Connecticut. I'm Eric Rosenberg, chair of the East Hampton COA, and the leader of COACT. Our talented Steering Committee created this mission statement to lay out our purpose:

> The mission of COACT is to create a strong statewide network that connects and supports volunteers serving on Commissions on Aging (COAs) and similar organizations across CT.
>
> Through education, resources, collaboration, and advocacy, we empower local COAs to strengthen their effectiveness and enhance the quality of life for older adults in their communities.

As we grow in participants and in ways to serve you, I wanted to update you on our accomplishments and plans.

- over 140 people have participated in at least one of our programs, and like you, have signed up for our contact list. It's growing, and you can help (see below).

- we have a new email address: **COACThelp@gmail.com**

- we have a website presence, thanks to our strategic partner AgingCT:
  - **https://agingct.org/advocacy-and-services/#commissions-on-aging**
    Much content is coming.

- AgingCT will also be sharing advocacy information and training, and Mailchimp

- we have produced four webinars - an initial Kickoff and polling of interests, Data: Where to Find it and How to Use it, Building a Senior / Community Center, and Energizing Your COA. Upcoming COACT webinars include:
  - September 30, 4-5 pm - Rep. Jane Garibay, Chair of the legislature's Committee on Aging, will speak on the committee's legislative priorities, plus a primer on how to educate and influence your elected representatives.
  - October 30, 3-4 pm, a listening session by the leadership of the CT Bureau of Aging to give you the opportunity for direct input into the State Plan on Aging.

You're invited to help make Connecticut history on Tuesday, October 6: the first ever chance to meet in person with other COAs' and similar organizations' leaders and members from across the state. It's part of our strategy of breaking down silos of COAs so that we can learn from and support each other.

We'll be gathering at two different places on **October 6:**

- 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - at the 2026 AgingCT Summit at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. It's the premier CT conference on older adult issues, with top speakers and great networking. But it's filling up fast, so use this link for more info and registration if you want to come. **https://agingct.org/agingct-summit/** COACT will have an information table at the entrance, and give you a blue sticker for your name tag to help you identify other COA members. We'll gather at tables for lunch.

- 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. COACT will hold an after-party casual gathering (self-pay) 2.4 miles away at Viron Rondo restaurant. **https://www.vironrondoosteria.com/** Please wear your AgingCT Summit name tag to be directed to our gathering area (but join us even if you don't go to the Summit). I'll wear a bright orange baseball cap. Kindly tell us if you plan to come: COACThelp@gmail.com.

If you're keen on helping COACT grow and become much more helpful to the leaders and members of COAs and similar groups in the state, please consider participating. It has proved very difficult to find contact information for potential members, so please spread the word to other COA / similar group members, and ask them to sign up. Also consider volunteering, either for projects (contact me), or to find us a part-time volunteer for office work and organizing.

Thank you for your interest in COACT. I hope that you will find our organization very helpful in your important work improving the lives of older adults in your community.

Warm regards,
Eric

Eric Rosenberg, MD
COACThelp@gmail.com