

CITY OF WEST HAVEN SENIORS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

An Organizational meeting of the West Haven Seniors Commission was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by Chairman Johnson at West Haven City Hall, 355 Main St. All those present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

John M. Carrano, Commissioner, Human Resources	Not Present
Alyssa Maddern, Director of Elderly Services	Present
Teddi McKenna, Commissioner	Present
Leonora Rodriguez, Vice-Chair	Present
Dominic Broccoli, Commissioner	Present
Paula Cappuccia, Commissioner	Present
Debra Johnson, Chair	Present

1. Minutes of June 10, 2025

- Director of Elderly Services will finish the Minutes so they can be approved in the next meeting in September

2. Public Input

- The Chairman opened the floor for Public Input and there were no speakers. Public portion was then closed

3. Communications

- Commissioner Cappuccia stated that she would like to give away felt material for the Kneedlers group to make scarves and blankets for the needy
 - Director of Elderly Services stated that the Kneedlers have already crocheted blankets, hats, and scarves for various organizations, however, will bring the idea forward to them
- Chairman Johnson stated that all the WHSC Members are asking for update of the move to Molloy School, specifically a timetable
 - Director of Elderly Services stated she hopes to find out a timetable as well from her higher ups.
- Vice-Chairman Rodriguez expressed how the Milford Senior Center does an Annual Report which highlights all that MSC does, their goals for every year, usually 2-3 goals and if a goal is not met that year, it will rollover to the next year
 - Vice-Chairperson Leonora Rodriguez shared an anecdote of what she recently dealt with regarding ARPA money of the Milford Senior Center.
- Director of Elderly Services stated that she would like to have a survey for the West Haven Senior Center to better their programming and overall Senior Center
 - Vice-Chairman Rodriguez mentioned that Milford Senior Center had done a successful survey specific to 3 different programs; programming, transportation, and nutrition and it was easier to comprehend and complete rather than a long survey
 - Vice-Chairman Rodriguez stated that the survey was distributed through online, paper copies, and telephonically, in different languages

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- Commissioner Cappuccia suggested setting up a survey at local stores and restaurants.

4. Report of the Director

- DOT Section 5310 Grant Program
 - No update to report
- MySeniorCenter (MSC) Status
 - No report
- Molloy School Conversion to West Haven Senior Center
 - No report
- Director of Elderly Services reported the upcoming Happenings Happening are being finalized for next month

5. Report of the Commissioner

- No report.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

- Commissioner Cappuccia asked if a mammogram van can come during the month of October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 - Chairman Johnson suggested the idea of Wellness on Wheels (WOW) with Bridges to visit the WHSC too.
- Vice-Chairman Rodriguez asked Director of Elderly Services what the plan was for National Senior Center Month as it is September
 - Director of Elderly Services stated that there are plans in the works
 - Vice-Chair Rodriguez stated that the Milford Senior Center schedules an Open House which gathers more Members and interest in the Senior Center altogether
 - Commissioner Cappuccia suggested a presentation with local chefs at the WHSC as she experienced a fun event recently at the West Haven Public Library and will get the contact info of the chef
 - Vice-Chairman Rodriguez suggested talking about the National Senior Center theme and highlight upcoming Happenings Happening of the Vaccine Clinic and Mammogram Van
- Chairman Johnson asked where the original Trolley is located
 - Commissioner Cappuccia stated the West Haven Historical Society should know where it is and stated that the Trolley was not wheelchair accessible
- Vice-Chairman Rodriguez asked that the following can be included in the Minutes as well as be properly conveyed to the Outreach and Activity Coordinator of the recent experience she had experienced regarding a West Haven Senior
 - Vice-Chairman Rodriguez expressed an encounter she dealt with an older adult male, who is currently living in a shed.
 - The older adult needs basic living needs and to be able to find an apartment with a rent of >\$1,800/month.
 - Outreach & Activity Coordinator had reached out to this older adult to provide support through the West Haven Senior Center.

- Chairman Johnson expressed that she has joined the Kneedlers and that is a “lovely group” and also attended the Start of Summer Italian Ice Social and had a “good time.”
8. Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM; Vice-Chairman Rodriguez seconded, and Commissioner Broccoli third

