



WATERTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD, WATERTOWN, CT**

Thursday, May 21, 2026

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Melanie Flaherty, Chair

II. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Melanie Flaherty, Chair
Cynthia Blanchard
Alan Mickel
Sally Kuslis
Debra Desena
Andrea Corcoran
Tracy Dasilva (arrived at 6:35)

ABSENT:

Wilbur Hughes, Vice-Chair
Amy Quinnan

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael Ganem, Director of Parks, Recreation, Senior, and Social Services

III. Public Participation – Phyllis West commented on the poor quality of the video from the April 16, 2026, meeting.

IV. Correspondence – none

V. Approval of Minutes:

April 16, 2026, Regular Meeting

Motion by Cindy Blanchard, seconded by Sally Kuslis, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2026, meeting.

Discussion: Cindy was erroneously listed as the Vice Chair. Wilbur is the Vice Chair

Motion passed 6-1 to accept the minutes with the correction that Wilbur Hughes is the Vice Chair. Andrea abstained.

VI. Reports

A. Chairman – no report

B. Parks & Recreation Director

Michael Ganem:

- Written Report is attached to the minutes.

- a. Sally suggested that interested people consider participating in the book club held on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

C. Senior Center Coordinator/Municipal Services

Laura Garay:

- Provided a written report

VII. Old Business- Alan suggests that we update the ordinance and/or the bylaws; perhaps update the mission statement; a welcome plaque at the FASC citing our primary purpose.

VIII. New Business – for the record, the Town of Watertown votes on its budget every May.

IX. Adjournment -

Motion: Alan Mickel, seconded by Cindy Blanchard, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:15 P.M.

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Flaherty, Chair
Watertown Commission on Aging

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk

To: The Commission on Aging

From: Michael Ganem, Director of Parks and Recreation

Date: May 21, 2026

Subject: Director's Report – May 2026

Transportation & Regional Transit Updates

Section 5310 Grant

- **Status Alert:** The Section 5310 Transportation Grant is currently delayed. Detailed specifics regarding the timeline shift can be found in the attached correspondence.

Dial-A-Ride & SFY27 Matching Grant Program (MGP)

- **Funding & Operations:** Funding for the FY 26-27 Dial-A-Ride Matching Grant Program has been officially approved through the CT General Assembly, with Watertown's local matching share set at \$31,586. As a critical reminder, this MGP is specific to Dial-A-Ride and is entirely separate from the 5310 grants administered through the Falls Avenue Senior Center (FASC). Dial-A-Ride services run every Tuesday, providing a vital operational addition to the town's standard transportation offerings.
- **Partnership & Stewardship:** Under our current agreement, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) acts as the administrative conduit to utilize a qualified third-party transportation vendor. Our strategic window through the end of the current recertification (running until June 30, 2027) is focused heavily on stewardship. By providing consistent, clean data, we will reinforce Watertown's standing as a high-performing regional partner and secure our case for sustained legislative funding from CTDOT in the next cycle.

Greater Waterbury Transit District Appointment

- **Town Council Vote:** I am incredibly pleased to share that at their April 20th meeting, the Watertown Town Council unanimously appointed me to serve as the Town of Watertown Representative on the Greater Waterbury **Transit**

District board. The appointment passed with zero discussion and carries a term running through May 1, 2030. Stepping into this regional transit role directly strengthens our ability to advocate for community access, optimize operations like Dial-A-Ride, and ensure the specific transportation needs of the Watertown community are delivered efficiently.

Falls Avenue Senior Center (FASC) & Facilities Management

Fiscal Year Closeout & Planning

- **End-of-Year Clean Up: We are currently deep into closing out the 2025-26 fiscal year. Concurrently, the administrative team is using current-year tracking data to refine the upcoming FY 26-27 operational budget, ensuring strict alignment with town guidelines and facility priorities.**

Facility & Grounds Upgrades

- **Interdepartmental Collaboration: We are actively collaborating with other town departments to coordinate key asset improvements at the senior center. Current projects under evaluation include upgrading the main sound system, replacing the bingo board, and executing necessary sidewalk repairs to maintain safe pedestrian access.**
- **Maintenance Notice: Parking lot line painting at the facility is officially scheduled to take place this coming Sunday.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Ganem

Director of Parks and Recreation

Town of Watertown, CT