

Commission on Aging (COA) Meeting

Filed subject to approval

Date: May 13, 2026

Location: Heritage Center

Present:

COA Commissioners: Denise Cesareo (chair), Sal Armato, Liz Castagna, Sarah Cummings, Claudia DeMelis, Angelica Fontanez, Ruth Moran, Peggy Zamore (Alternate)

Member(s) of the Public: Deborah Ancona, Tina Armato

Absent: Florisa Zinghini (Alternate), Julia Pemberton (First Selectwoman), Peter Cody

1. Call to Order: 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 8, 2026

Dispense with Minutes of April 8, 2026, accept as is, Sarah Cummings, 2nd Claudia DeMelis.

3. Public comments: None

4. Social Services Director Report: Angelica Fontanez, Social Services Director, provided and discussed the April 2026 revenue and expenditure reports of top-level assistance provided to seniors, families, and adults, as shown on Attachment 1. The report provides figures for the Food Pantry, Eversource, Oil / Fuel, Van Reports and others.

These include the Food Pantry gift cards, energy assistance, and programs / camps to 2 families.

Both vans were utilized and provided a total of 45 medical trips, 7 social/recreational trips and 33 shopping / personal trips.

Angelica visited the Ridgefield Thrift Shop. Available food and farmer's market coupons are distributed on Fridays. Benefits are not restricted to Ridgefield residents.

5. Heritage Center Program Director Report: Margherita Pilato, Heritage Center Program Director, provided and discussed the Program Coordinator's Reports for April 2026 in Attachment 2. Income for this month did not fully cover the instructors' payments, but this is not unusual for this time of year.

The Klezmer Music and lunch event was very well attended and appreciated. Refreshments with Friends is a frequent favorite. The Let your Groove Bloom event was also well attended.

6. First Selectwoman's Comments: Julia Pemberton, First Selectwoman, was absent from this meeting due to the town Tree Planting taking place. Notes were prepared for Denise to present;

- The Town budget passed.
- The budget included a second van driver funded per diem for about 12 hours per week. The van schedule will be determined.
- The construction of the walking path ended due to the contractor's failure to maintain insurance, license, and other requirements.
- The Community Garden is abandoned for the remainder of 2026, due to the septic system beneath the garden.

7. Chairman's Comments: .

The chairman noted that appropriate signage needs to be applied to both senior vans for safety and identification. The Commission will pursue this.

Denise noted the reduction in Eversource prices as of May 1, 2026, and noted that this is due to the decrease in public benefits commonly applied at this time of year.

Communications Review Team (CRT): The "Welcome to Redding" postcards were printed and are ready for distribution, following generation of the mailing list. Claudia discussed the 'perks' available to Redding seniors and will develop a spreadsheet of the perks.

The Memorial Day Parade is Saturday, May 23, 2026, starting at 12:00pm. The Commission has been invited to march in the parade. Gathering time is 11:30 am at Redding Elementary School.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business: None

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m., Motion by Peggy Zamore, 2nd Sarah Cummings

Submitted by Jeanne Lazo-Wasem

Next Meeting

June 10, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Heritage Center

COA Meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Attachment 1

Social Services Director Report for April 2026

Food Pantry (Giftcards)	
Seniors	4
Families	3
Adults	1
Eversource	
Family	
Senior	
Oil/Fuel	
Seniors	1
Family	
Energy Assistance	na
Salvation Army	na
United Way	meeting
RTS	
Expenses	\$1,452
Donations	\$810
Programs/Camps (Family)	2
Van Report	
Medical	45
Social / Rec	7
Shop / Personal	33
Used both vans	yes
Mileage van	510
Bus	572
Working on multiple grants:	
Worked on MGP Grant	completed 5/11/26

COA Meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Attachment 2

Program Coordinator's Report for April 2026

Total PAYMENTS to instructors: \$5,560

June Bird: \$80
 June Fagan: \$1080 (+\$315 from grant)
 Edda Gusman: \$1155
 Laura Dorr: \$160
 Sybl Falik: \$350
 Karen Loker: \$412.50
 Laurie Mayper: \$80
 Heather Massimo: \$135
 Laura McCormick: \$980
 Ruth Moran: \$717.50
 Wendy Matthews: \$500
 Total class INCOME: \$2542 (46%)

Fitness	Average Attendance	Learning, Games & Arts	Average Attendance
Barre	4	Bridge: Tues/Thurs	10/14
Cardio Dance M/F	5/9	Canasta	5
Essentrics	8	Clay AM	4
Gentle Yoga	3	Clay PM	5
Strength Training 1:30	9	Discussion Group	21
Tai Chi (Beg)	3	Drawing Basics	9
Tai Chi (Int)	5	French Conversation	5
TJQ Continued T/Fri	6/6	Italian, Beginner I	5
Tai Ji Quan: MBB	8	Italian, Beginner II	7
		Italian, Pre-Intermediate	6
		Italian, Intermediate	4
		Mah Jongg Instruction	8
		Mah Jongg	8
		Quilting	6
		Sketch, Paint, Create, Wed	10
		Sketch, Paint, Create, Thurs	8
		Spanish	5
		Uke, Intermediate	7
		Uke, Beginner	4

April Special Programs

Cut the Cord Appointments 4/7 3
 Ken Burns: The American Rev 4/7 4
 Tech Help with Vika 4/7 3
 Klezmer Music & Lunch 4/9 36
 Mozart: Gran Partita 3/5 13
 Meditation 4/15, 4/29 3, 2
 Refreshments with Friends 4/17 23
 Talking Books 4/27 3
 Let Your Groove Bloom 2/23 28