

Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission

April 25, 2014

10:00 am

Long Hill Conference Room

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on April 25, 2014 in the Long Hill Conference Room in the Trumbull Town Hall.

**Members Present:** Chairperson, Rachael Yahwak; Vice Chairperson, Roberta Bellows; Amy DeZenzo, Dorothy Merritt, Rita Grossi, Ron Foligno

Also present: Jean Ferreira

**Absent:** Joan Mehlhorn, Dee Chiota

This is a brief summary of the meeting.

A quorum being present, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:10 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Yahwak thanked Barbara Crandall for her minutes and welcomed Mrs. Merritt as a voting member of the commission. If anyone on the commission knows someone who is interested in being an alternate, contact Mrs. Yahwak.

**Past Minutes**

The following changes were made to the minutes of March 28, 2014: Page 1 – Rita Grossi should be under Members Present and Ron Filigno's name is spelled Foligno. Page 2 second paragraph "Mes." should read "Mrs.". Mrs. Merritt motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mrs. Grossi and approved unanimously.

**Chairman's Report**

Mrs. Yahwak passed around a note from Joanna Leone. She also passed around a letter to the Editor which was previously read by the commissioners regarding the snack bar. This topic will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mrs. Yahwak noted State Representative Rutigliano's office is working on the grant for \$150,000 for the kitchen at the Senior Center. They will keep her advised of the progress. She noted a letter writing day was held on April 1 resulting in over 40 letters being sent to the state by the members of the Trumbull Senior Center all regarding the kitchen and how much it is needed.

Discussion was held regarding the removal of \$1,800 from the budget for mailing of the newsletter. Mr. Foligno and Mrs. DeZenzo wrote a letter to the chairman of the Town Council that was not addressed at the meeting last Tuesday. Mrs. Yahwak noted that in the past, when people ran out of money, they would go before the Board of Finance and plead their case. At the June meeting of the commission, it

will need to be decided which commissioners would attend the Board of Finance and Town Council meetings. She did state she would like the entire commission present. Mr. Foligno noted that if this is not resolved by July 1, the commission will need to decide what steps need to be taken. Mrs. Yahwak noted that the seniors will not be charged for the newsletter. It was noted that after July 1, nothing can be charged to the budget because there is not a line item to cover it so it is important to attend the meetings in June. Mrs. Fereira noted she will need a decision by the time the seniors start to register. Mrs. Yahwak stated there is no reason why the newsletter cannot be mailed. The commission needs to go before the boards to get the funds reinstated. The Board of Finance suggested the funds from the ads could be used for the newsletter but they were told the ad money is used for programs. Mrs. Yahwak passed around the letter written by Mrs. DeZenzo and Mr. Foligno. Mrs. Bellows suggested the letter may have been read in the caucus prior to the meeting even if it was not read at the meeting. Mrs. Bellows will investigate to see if this is the case. A decision on how to address this will be made at the next meeting.

Mrs. Yahwak asked if Mrs. Fereira had contacted the individuals regarding the garden program to talk about container gardening. She had not and Mrs. Yahwak suggested she contact the garden centers or the garden clubs in Nichols and Long Hill to see if they would provide a program.

### **Director's Report**

Jean Fereira reported the following. She thanked Mr. Foligno for coming in and reviewing what is planned and all the commissioners for their help with the events.

1. April 29 – Pizza and a Movie – First Wives Club.
2. May 2 – Tea Party and proclamation of Senior Citizen Month – Bigelow Tea will be providing a variety of teas. Mrs. Yahwak would like the commissioners to attend. Start time is 10:45am. Teas will be brewed and a program of differences in teas and benefits of the teas will be presented. A goody bag will be given and center pieces provided by Joanna Leone will be given away at the end. Mrs. Yahwak requested an Executive Session at 10:28 will all present to discuss how the center pieces will be given away. Session ended at 10:29. Reservations are needed and Mrs. Fereira has approximately 30 people signed up. The maximum number they can take is 50-60 due to space limitations as they need to leave an area wide enough for the tea carts to get through. Mrs. Fereira noted that they would like to get all the commissioners to attend the events with the seniors so they know who their commissioners are. Instead of name tags, it was suggested each commissioner sit at a different table or move around among the seniors at the events.
3. Health Fair was tabled until next month.
4. May 16 – Card Party – Goodie bags will be provided by Northbridge. When the seniors register, the group leader will be responsible to pick up the goodie bags for the table and decide who gets the center piece. She noted this might be done more often since it has been very well received.
5. May 23 – Technology Workshop by AT&T – This will start at 1 pm. Mr. Musto, Mr. Wang and Mr. Rutigliano from the state will be attending. Refreshments will be served.

6. May 30 – Senior Citizen Month Bingo – light lunch and prizes. It was suggested that the individual giving the quote for the snack bar be requested to provide lunch for this event.
7. Membership is low because it is at the end of the year.
8. Coffee for the Center was discussed. Mrs. Ferreira provided minutes from a previous meeting where this was discussed but a vote was never taken. Discussion was held regarding who would purchase coffee and how much would be needed. Mrs. Ferreira noted the amount would vary depending on the activities they sponsor. Motion was made by Mrs. DeZenko to give \$100.00 for coffee every two months. Seconded by Mrs. Bellows. This requisition must be put in soon with funding out of the Special Agency Account. Motion was amended to \$120 to include creamers. Approved unanimously.
9. Thank you to everyone who came to the letter writing day. Commissioners helped the seniors and they appreciated this.

### **Old Business**

1. Letter to Town Council previously discussed.
2. Senior Month previously discussed.
3. Snack Bar Menu – Snack bar menu was distributed to the commissioners prior to the meeting. It was agreed the prices seemed fine but soda prices were high. There is a variety of items available and members must sign up in advance if they wish to participate. Mrs. DeZenko did not know what the procedure would be through the town. There might need to be some type of contract. We would also need to know how the money would be collected. She will check on how to move forward with the town. Motion was made by Mrs. Bellows to accept Catamount Food Service as the caterer and their menu. Seconded by Mrs. Merritt and approved unanimously. The Health Department will also need to be involved.

### **New Business**

Mrs. DeZenko distributed information regarding possible trips to be sponsored. After review and discussion, it was agreed Mrs. DeZenko move forward in obtaining more information on the following:

1. Taste of Providence and Waterfire -- August
2. Damn Yankees – June 18
3. Fiddler on the Roof – August 15
4. 911 Memorial – September 20

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Merritt, seconded by Mrs. Grossi, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 am.

**Next Meeting: May 23, 2014**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk

These minutes are considered a draft until approved by the Senior Citizen Commission at its next meeting.