

# Senior Citizen Commission Meeting – March 27, 2015

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Trumbull Senior Citizen Commission

March 27, 2015

10:00 am

Long Hill Conference Room

The Senior Citizen Commission of the Town of Trumbull held a scheduled meeting on March 27, 2015 in the Long Hill Conference Room of the Trumbull Town Hall.

**Members Present:** Chairperson, Rachel Yahwak; Vice Chairperson, Ron Foligno; Commissioners Roberta Bellows, Dorothy Merritt, Amy DeZenzo, Dee Chiota and Joan Mehlhorn; Alternate Maureen Gordon

**Absent:** Senior Center Director, Jean Ferreira; Alternate Gail D'Elia

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Mrs. Yahwak followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **Past Minutes**

Motion was made by Ms. Merritt, seconded by Mrs. Bellows, to approve the minutes of February 27, 2015 as written. Approved unanimously.

Mrs. Yahwak made two announcements – Ms. Ferreira is out of the office after having surgery. Everything is fine. She also expressed condolences to Mrs. Bellows on the loss of her mother.

## **Secretary's Report**

Mrs. Chiota noted she sent cards to both Ms. Ferreira and Mrs. Bellows. She had no other report.

## **Chairman's Report**

Mrs. Yahwak noted the following:

1. Instead of a Brown Bag Lunch, First Selectman Herbst would prefer a coffee to be held on April 20, 2015 at 9:30 am at the Senior Center. He will be discussing the new senior center. She encouraged all seniors to attend, whether or not they are members of the Senior Center.
2. The \$500 grant money given to Social Services was discussed. It was noted this will be controlled by Social Services, taken from the account as needed and reported to the Senior Commission as it is distributed.
3. The first Building Committee meeting for the new center was held. This was mostly an organizational meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2015 at 3:30 pm at the Senior Center. Ms. Ferreira has been requested to provide some information about the current center

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such as how many members, what might be useful in a new center, what is not working currently, results of the recent survey. Everyone is welcome to attend. She noted members of the Town Council are chairing the committee. Mrs. Yahwak feels the committee should pick the chairs; they should not be appointed by an outside individual. She will speak to the committee at the next meeting regarding this appointment. The committee will be looking at various centers throughout the state. More information will be available after the next meeting.

4. The Volunteer Committee also met. Mrs. Gordon noted there have been three meetings. Lynn Arnov is chair. It is anticipated the committee findings will be presented to the Board of Finance in April. They are trying to determine who would be eligible and what the criteria would be. Other towns have been contacted who have such a program. Two recommendations have been discussed – 1) no financial stipulation and 2) a financial cap. Suggestion of doing a trial for six months to see what the response would be has been discussed. There would also be a limit to the number of individuals receiving the tax relief. Individuals would apply and then there would be a process through the town to determine who is eligible. They are also looking for certain skill sets. The First Selectman would like the town to come up with specific jobs for this project but they need someone to coordinate it. It is unknown at this time how many people would apply. Maximum hours would be 50 with \$300 off for two individuals per household.
5. Thank you certificates have not been distributed. There was a problem with the vendor for the gift certificates. It was suggested to purchase a general gift card that can be used anywhere instead of something specific.
6. The bulletin board has been hung in the Nutrition Room.
7. Mrs. Yahwak and Ms. Ferreira spoke with the Red Hats and the issues were resolved. Everyone is welcome to join. Meetings will be in the Nutrition Room. It was suggested that they put an ad in the paper regarding membership.
8. The donated TV will be picked up in April for installation at the center.
9. Last month trips were printed in the newsletter but it was unknown where they came from. There was some confusion but it has been resolved. Mrs. Yahwak noted the commission will provide Mrs. DeZenzo with a list to include in the newsletter as recommended trips. Suggestions included Ellis Island, 911 Memorial, New York by Land and by Sea, Long Island North Shore, Brooklyn Neighborhood, Botanical Gardens, Waterfire, Bronx Zoo. It was recommended to put spring and summer programs in the next newsletter. Members will be instructed to call the tour company to make reservations; the Senior Center only makes recommendations. Overnight trips will be something considered in the future.
10. The 2015-2016 budget is in the final stages of approval. Mrs. Yahwak noted the money for the bus driver may have been given back but there is some confusion on this point that needs to be clarified. The town is still discussing cameras and a time clock.
11. The following programs are scheduled:
  - a. Lunch and a Movie is 4/17. Movie is St. Vincent.
  - b. Maefair will sponsor a Healthy Ethnic Cooking Class on 4/24 at 1:00 pm.
  - c. Birthday Party is 4/10 at 11:00 am.
  - d. Bingo is 4/10 at 1:00 pm.

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- e. Senior Center trip to Yale University Art Gallery is 4/15 departing at 10:30 am.
  - f. AARP driving course is 5/29.
  - g. May is Senior Citizen Month. Look for activities to commemorate seniors throughout the month.
12. Mrs. Yahwak stated they are looking for an alternate for the commission. Anyone with a suggestion should contact her.

### **Old Business**

All Old Business listed on the agenda was discussed under the Chairman's Report.

Question was raised regarding the status of the new kitchen for the center. This has been put on hold with the discussions of the possibility of a new center. Discussion was held regarding the fact that various ideas should be brought up because they all take time and that the definition of a "senior" means limited time. The seniors should not have to wait for a new kitchen which was approved a while ago. The Senior Center is a social place for seniors. Not having a kitchen is a limiting factor. It was noted that seniors go to various center because of the diversity of the programs and to keep themselves active. The mission statement for the center is very clear as to its position but it has not been able to be implemented appropriately. Further discussion was held regarding the money for the kitchen and how the findings of the Building Committee will dictate the use of the money. If the new center is far in the future, these funds should be used where originally designated. Mrs. Yahwak noted this discussion should continue with Mr. Herbst and Mrs. Arnow noting the Senior Center is an emergency center during storms for the public. Discussion was held regarding the appropriate approach to be taken on this subject.

Mrs. Yahwak moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the kitchen renovation at 11:00 am. Seconded by Mrs. DeZenzo and approved. Members included in the Executive Session include Mrs. Yahwak, Mrs. Bellows, Mr. Foligno, Mrs. DeZenzo, Mrs. Mehlhorn, Ms. Merritt, Mrs. Chiota and Mrs. Gordon. Motion was made to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:15 am by Mrs. Yahwak, seconded by Mrs. DeZenzo, and approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

No New Business.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Mrs. Mehlhorn, seconded by Mrs. Chiota, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall  
Clerk

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