

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, April 28, 2023
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall
2:00 pm

Present: Chairman Michael Ganino, Ron Foligno, Evelyn Wiesner, Nancy Lucas (entered at 2:04 pm), Alissa Heilbrunn, Debra Gilbert Taylor and Linda Randall

Absent: Mark Ryan

Also Present: Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services and Paulette Mack, Executive Director of Stern Village (entered at 2:15 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Mr. Ganino followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Mrs. Wiesner to approve the minutes of March 24, 2023 as written. Seconded by Ms. Randall and approved by unanimous consent.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Senior Center Director's Report

Mrs. Jakab reported the following:

1. Social Services is re-starting a Care Givers Support Group in June at the request of the members.
2. Social Services is busy with ARPA funds and financial assistance.
3. One social worker position is open; the student interns have ended their work for the year.
4. Ronnie Mogensen is the new Senior Center Program Coordinator.
5. With the new staffing, the Center will now be open until 4:00 pm.
6. Several trips are being coordinated including Italy, overnight to Atlantic City, Thimble Islands, various breweries and a glass demonstration. Suggested trip from the Commission included sporting events in New York City.
7. Veteran's presentation is coming up with lunch provided by Olde Towne Restaurant.
8. Tea Party is next week.
9. May is Mental Health Month. Various programs are planned.
10. Movies have been brought back.
11. Medication Management presentation is planned.

12. The Fire Marshall is coming.
13. Working with the new Wellness Nurse to set up some programs for the members.
14. New defibrillator – Mrs. Jakab will follow-up with the Nursing Department on its status.

Facilities Report

Mr. Foligno reported Hardy Lane is still the most viable location. Tom Arcari, architect for the project, has indicated an increase in construction costs. The proposed building is 32,000 square feet and would cost approximately \$30 to \$35 million. Traffic study has not been finalized. The pool is no longer being considered.

Chairman's Report

1. Senior Day – discussion was held regarding the postponement of Senior Day to September 2024. **Motion was made by Ms. Lucas to table the event until next year. Seconded by Ms. Randall and approved by unanimous consent.** Discussion was held regarding having a community event instead of just for seniors. Mr. Ganino noted they would like to partner with the Library and the Rotary picnic for the seniors.
2. Frenchtown Elementary School Pilot – Mr. Ganino and Mr. Foligno participated in a two-hour session with Kindergarten, First, Third, Fourth and Fifth grade students during their Library period. Both were pleased with the initial activities and look forward to moving forward with the program on a larger scale with more volunteers.

Ms. Mack entered the meeting at 2:15 pm.

At this time, they are waiting for volunteer applications to clear the Board of Education. More volunteers are needed to make the program a success. Discussion was held regarding a program in the Bridgeport school system with similar intentions.

3. Several volunteers are working at the Senior Center in various areas including the lunch program (held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) and the Food Pantry.
4. BJs Weekly Donations – donations are being distributed to the Food Pantry and Stern Village. Several baskets have been donated through BJs and Shop Rite. Refrigerators are available for perishables. Donations were received at the Farmers Market in the past. Amazon orders can be sent directly to the Pantry.
5. Continuing to attend the Board of Education meetings to speak on various topics and to show support for the schools from the seniors.
6. Received a note from Gina Prisco regarding the Frenchtown Pilot stating –“Frenchtown welcomed Mike and Ron to Frenchtown on Wednesday. They worked with students in various grade levels engaging in conversations about reading, coding and creating patterns. We look forward to the continued growth of this partnership.”

Stern Village Report

Ms. Mack reported the following:

1. There are 13 new residents with interviews continuing to be held to fill the remaining vacancies.
2. A Mother's Day Program will be held on May 12 sponsored by Jim Zygmunt. Trumbull Helps will sponsor a spaghetti and meatball dinner on May 27.
3. Thank you for the donations. The residents appreciate the thoughtfulness.
4. Jeff from the Maintenance Staff will be retiring on May 1.
5. The staff continues to remain active and engaged with the residents.

Discussion was held regarding how to encourage more residents to attend the lunches. Ms. Mack noted the residents are made aware through the newsletter, resident meetings and flyers. Discussion was held regarding State reimbursement for the meals and the paperwork required by participants. There is reluctance to complete the registration information for the meal program by some seniors. It was suggested Mrs. Jakab attend a resident meeting at Stern Village to explain the process. Discussion was held regarding the growth of the program and the number of occupants in the Café. Mrs. Jakab noted the Café has an occupancy of 80 people when using tables and chairs; using only chairs allows more people.

Farmer's Market

More volunteers are required to staff the table during the summer. Mr. Ganino is willing to train any volunteers. Cash donations are accepted.

Trumbull Business Discount Program

Mr. Ganino has started to process the list. Ms. Gilbert Taylor volunteered to help with language when approaching new businesses in town.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Foligno to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Wiesner and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk