

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Commission on Aging Virtual Meeting
Friday, August 26, 2022
2:00 pm

The Commission on Aging held a meeting on Friday, August 26, 2022.

Present: Chairman Michael Ganino, Ron Foligno, Evelyn Wiesner, Alissa Heilbrunn and Nancy Lucas

Absent: Jean DaRold, Mark Ryan and Debra Gilbert Taylor

Also Present: Rina Bakalar, Economic and Community Development Director

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Mr. Ganino followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Foligno to approve the minutes of June 24, 2022 as written. Seconded by Ms. Lucas and approved.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Senior Center Director's Report

Mr. Foligno reported for Mrs. Jakab who was unable to attend. The following was noted:

1. Senior Picnic, sponsored by the Rotary, will be held on September 16.
2. Impact Trumbull is hosting an event at the Senior Center on Monday, September 26. Title is "Sweets and Treats". Participants will receive gifts from local businesses, including sweets. It is a member's only event with a limit of 150 seniors.
3. Nurse Tori has resigned and taken a position at Bridgeport Hospital. She will be missed.
4. Ashley Grace has resigned from the Senior Center. She received her Master's degree in Social Work and has taken a position in that field. We will miss her.
5. Grateful for the many volunteers. We could not do without them.
6. Social Services has a new social worker starting in October.

Mr. Ganino also noted:

7. There will be a presentation on the Constitution on September 13. Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, a professor of constitutional law, will be presenting. It will be held in conjunction with the luncheon starting at 10:30 am.

8. Parks and Recreation will beginning using the Senior Center on the weekends. They may also be using the Center after 4:00 pm on certain days of the week for youth activities.
9. There is a petition signed by seniors expressing that the seniors are in support of the Community Facilities Building Committee and requesting attendance at their next meeting on September 14 to support a Senior Center without an aquatic or community center component. A copy of the petition has been forwarded to the Chair of the Committee. Ms. Bakalar noted her involvement is to comment on sites from her perspective as Director and, if it moves forward, to help find additional grant dollars to build the center, provide programs and purchase equipment. This would offset the burden to the tax payers as far as the cost. Mr. George Estrada is more the lead on what the building would look like and the engineering and facilities side of it.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Ganino had no further report.

Report from Stern Village

No report.

Guest Speaker – Rina Bakalar, Economic and Community Development Director

Ms. Bakalar spoke on her position as Economic and Community Development Director. It has many facets including:

1. The development process of any private development including bringing the development into the town, meeting with the developer and assisting them through the land use and permitting processes, construction and integration into the community in conjunction with other Town departments. She oversees the Fire Marshall's Office, Building Department and Planning and Zoning.
2. Retention of existing businesses and supporting those businesses.
3. Business recruitment – doing market analysis to understand what the Town's business needs are and tries to recruit those businesses.
4. Works as the point person when businesses come to town looking for opportunities. Needs to be aware of the properties available and support the establishment of new businesses.
5. Works on staffing various efforts and on the Town's plan.
6. Seeks grant funding.
7. Works on project teams in town so that projects move forward on the municipal side. These teams include the (1) Route 111 Trail and the new light (2) Long Hill Green and (3) Trumbull Center. She makes sure the funding is in place, paperwork is complete, design is reviewed, meets with the State and keeps everyone accountable in a team oriented way.
8. Chairs the Town's Long Term Recovery Committee in the event of disasters. Also works with the regional committee as set by the governor.
9. Interfaces with the press and media.
10. Secures grants for all departments from writing the grant to implementation of the project.
11. Uses interns from various sources to work in the department on different projects/grant work.
12. Serves on several non-profit boards in the region.

Ms. Bakalar updated the Commission on the following:

1. Restaurant Week – this year is October 7 through October 14.
2. Meals Program – grant from the CT Department of Housing. It was for \$200,000 and there remains about \$50,000 to implement another round of gift cards to local restaurants.
3. Main Street Dollars Program – City Line Florist, Plasko's Creamery and Pure Poetry participated.
4. Ecco – new restaurant near the Long Hill Green with a pre-fixed lunch.
5. Long Hill Green improvement – grant money is funding this project which includes sidewalks and a light at Whitney and Main. Waiting on DOT for the final signoff. Looking for additional grant money to enhance the Long Hill Green itself.
6. Sidewalk from Dunellen to the trail head on Whitney Avenue. Looking for grant funding.
7. Fryborg's opening, in the former Trumbull Pharmacy, has been delayed due to supply chain problems.
8. Golf Tech and a health and beauty studio will be opening by Dunkin Donuts.

9. Trumbull Center has a new restaurant opening in October. There are supply chain issues.
10. Hartford Health Care location near Sunny Daes will be moving across the street in the vacant bank building.
11. Next Chapter Book Store is located in Trumbull Center.
12. Proposed mixed use development in Trumbull Center with various components. Anyone interested should attend the next Planning and Zoning meeting. Currently they are looking for a zone change. No site plans have been submitted for approval.
13. Proposed mixed use development on Route 25. Two-thirds is in Trumbull and one-third in Monroe.
14. Veterans Center – looking for additional funding. Costs approximately \$3.5-\$4 million to build.
15. Various new businesses in the Merritt Corporate Park and other areas of town that have brought employment opportunities.
16. 48 Monroe Turnpike – approved by all land use boards but on hold due to litigation from an abutting land owner.
17. Mall property development – doing a market feasibility study for the mall area looking at what would bring business to that area.

Mr. Ganino thanked Ms. Bakalar for her update. Ms. Bakalar left the meeting at 3:34 pm.

Topics of Interest or Concern from Members

No discussion.

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

1. Meeting with the Frist Selectman was cancelled but an invite has been extended for Mrs. Tesoro to speak at the September meeting of the Commission.
2. Mr. Ganino referred to the Commission's charge in the Charter. A discussion will be held as to the Commission's role with regard to assisting seniors in the community. It was suggested a liaison be appointed between the Commission and the Senior Center but it was noted several commissioners volunteer at the Center who are able to work with the director as needed.
3. Ms. Lucas noted the Police Department will be making a presentation at the Center on scams.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Foligno to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Heilbrunn and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk