

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, November 18, 2022
2:00 pm

Present: Chairman Michael Ganino, Ron Foligno, Jean DaRold, Mark Ryan, Alissa Heilbrunn, Nancy Lucas and Debra Gilbert Taylor (via telephone)

Absent: Evelyn Wiesner

Also Present: Paulette Mack, Director, Stern Village

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Mr. Ganino followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Past Minutes

The clerk noted the word "Virtual" should be removed from the heading. Motion was made by Mrs. Heilbrunn to approve the minutes of October 28, 2022 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Ryan and approved with an abstention from Mr. Foligno.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Senior Center Director's Report

Mr. Ganino reported for Mrs. Jakab who was unable to attend the meeting.

1. The position at the Center remains unfilled. The Commission feels strongly that the position be filled as soon as possible.
2. The last Facilities Committee meeting was cancelled. The Commissioners were encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss particulars again. Mr. Ryan recommended the Commissioners drive down Hardy Lane to see the property being considered.
3. The cafeteria is running very smoothly and Mrs. Jakab thanked the volunteers for their work.
4. The Thanksgiving meal had 67 attendees with many orders made for pick up.

Stern Village Report

Ms. Mack reported the following:

1. Trumbull Helps is providing a Thanksgiving dinner at 4pm on Saturday in the Community Room for the residents.

2. Donations of turkeys with all the trimmings have been made. Ms. Mack is still looking for additional donations. She has been working with various grocery stores in the area but they have not been able to help. Suggestion was made to call Karen in the Food Pantry who has other sources.
3. The Food Pantry at Stern Village is working well and has even received donations from some of the residents. They are considering a fund raiser to help during the winter months in early December. Mr. Ganino will share this information at the Senior Center.
4. Ms. Mack wished everyone a blessed and safe holiday.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Ganino reported the following:

1. Mr. Ganino and Mr. Foligno met with Board of Education Superintendent Semmel regarding various projects that could include volunteers from the senior community. Possible programs included helping students with projects, tutoring, art, ESL and reading. This would primarily be done at the elementary level and would be a decision made by the principals at the individual schools. Mr. Ganino will continue to attend the BOE meetings and will discuss these possibilities with the Superintendent at future meetings.
2. Mr. Ganino noted a food drive was coordinated by Patricia Borghesan and Mary Isaac and he thanked them for their assistance. There is still a dire need for pantry items.
3. Mr. Ganino is working with Mr. Semmel on a contest at the elementary schools to collect cereal boxes which will be donated to the pantry at the Center.
4. They are still serving lunch on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at noon. Twenty-four hour notice is required. Overall participation has increased. Discussion was held regarding the inclusion of the residents of Stern Village in the meal program. Due to the limitation of the kitchen facilities at the Center, this may be difficult on an on-going basis but might be possible for holidays if reservations are made in advance. Arrangements could be made to deliver meals to the Village for pick up by residents. A discussion of the expansion of the program would need to be held.
5. Mr. Ganino met with representatives from the Derby BJ's and is working on a deal for donations.

Old Business

1. Senior Center and Social Services Brochure – the document will be updated as there are many changes.
2. Next Chapter Books is offering meeting space to outside organizations. This program provides funding for the students and is a great work experience.

New Business

1. Commissioners' Dinner is December 1.
2. Mr. Ganino will share two books with Mrs. Jakab for potential newsletter topics.
3. Meeting dates were discussed for 2023. It was agreed to hold two meetings at the Senior Center and two meetings at Stern Village to promote greater participation.
4. Discussion was held regarding the use of the Center by the Recreation Department. It is unknown how much the Center will be used after hours by various groups although, if they intend to use the gym for roller skating, the floor may need repairs prior to scheduling.
5. The architect for the Facilities Committee is completing soil testing to determine if Hardy Lane is a viable site. Next committee meeting is December 14. It was noted it would be beneficial for seniors to attend the meeting and voice their opinion as most residents who speak are against the project. Discussion was held on how the seniors could participate without going to the meeting because of the time of the meeting. Several options were discussed with the best being submission of letters to be read into the minutes.
6. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of a larger discount for seniors who would like to attend adult education classes (currently 10%). Stratford offers a 50% discount. Ms. Gilbert Taylor will speak with the Continuing Education office regarding this possibility.

Mr. Ganino recognized Mrs. DaRold who is leaving her position as a Commissioner after serving four years. Mrs. DaRold noted she will continue to work as a volunteer at the Center. She commended the Commission for the

work they do for the seniors in the community and encouraged them to continue to work on the initiatives that have been started.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Gilbert Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 pm. Seconded by Mr. Foligno and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk