

## Senior Services Commission

February 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Patricia Alsup at 10:30 a.m.

Roll Call:	Patricia Alsup	Theresa Fucini	Luella Landis
	Mike Parent 11:26 a.m.)	Linda Polke	Patricia Sienna ( <i>absent from 11:22 –</i>
	Mertie Terry	Helen Zalewski	

Absent: Claire Hickey Madeline Lowry

Others: Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director  
Ann Grasso, Cromwell Resident  
Al Waters, Council Liaison

### Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Patricia Sienna; seconded by Mertie Terry. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017, Regular Meeting made by Mike Parent; seconded by Luella Landis. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

The shared (with Portland) bus is being used and will have the Town of Cromwell logo added to the bus. There is also another bus coming in July, 2018. Amy is currently working on a grant application (to be awarded in 2019) for a 16 passenger bus.

A grant for \$2,500 was awarded by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County to be used for 6 iPads.

The statistics show that the total seniors serviced in January were: 1,897 (duplicated) and 237 (unduplicated). Mondays and Fridays are the busiest days.

Amy is seeking an increase in the budget for classes. Many of the current classes are full. In the last fiscal year, 26 new programs were added. Members of the senior commission will come to the meeting when Amy presents her budget proposal to the town council.

Amy would like to work with the Town Manager, senior advisors and town council on establishing a strategic plan to address population growth. She would also like to work on outreach, particularly to homebound residents.

Amy would like to build a stronger volunteer program and reach out to volunteers to teach classes. Perhaps there could be a senior tax credit program for volunteers.

The senior dinner is tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2017 (date may change).

The balance in the Senior Donation Account is \$22,059.45.

The monetary donations for the food bank in January were \$229.04 and 575 pounds of food

The number of rides has increased significantly each year since 2014.

#### **Director of Public Health Update – None**

#### **Council Liaison Update – Al Waters**

There is a new building being built by the transfer stations (near Gardner Nurseries). The town will receive a significant amount of tax revenue.

There is a budget workshop the first week of March.

Shop Rite is waiting for the state traffic control's review before moving forward. There are two other new stores that will be added to that shopping plaza.

The new car wash, located on Route 372 (across from Lowe's), is opening soon

The application for the property on the corner of Court Street and Shunpike Road has been denied. Al expects that there will be an appeal.

## Old Business

- a. Talent Show – Mertie Terry had received interest from the Cromwell High School music director but has not heard from him recently. Mertie suggested a different event (“Music for the Ages”) if the talent show could not come to fruition. She mentioned a senior swing band with a \$420 charge (to cover travel expenses). There is also a church choir interest in singing non-religious songs. The committee agreed that a “suggested donation” would allow all residents to be able to attend. There might be a custodian fee if the event is held at the high school on a weekend. A motion to set up a sub-committee for the “Music for the Ages” event was made by Mike Parent; seconded by Luella Landis. All in favor. Motion carried.
- b. Room Update – The taxes are being prepared in the Arch Room on Mondays.
- c. Facility Needs Update –Mike Parent presented (and read aloud) a letter that he and Helen Zalewski had drafted to be sent to the Mayor, Town Manager and town council regarding the space needs of the Senior Community, which created a lot of discussion.

Amy Saada informed the group that the new addition to the library would be used for technology. Amy also mentioned that a wall cannot be erected for the nurse due to the air handler. Mike will remove (from the letter) the part about the nurse’s station. Amy reminded the group that they cannot discount the pre-school population.

Mertie Terry suggested that Mike and Helen work with Amy to revise the letter.

Theresa Fucini will join the feasibility study sub-committee. Mike will also reach out to Luella Landis’s friend about joining this sub-committee.

## New Business

Mike Parent mentioned that the Knights of Columbus will be hosting a bowling event to support the Cromwell Food Pantry. Last year, the event raised over \$1,000.

## Citizens Comments – None

Motion made by Luella Landis to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.; seconded by Theresa Fucini. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman

Recording Clerk