

## Senior Services Commission

March 9, 2020

Note: Patricia Alsup has resigned from the Commission for health and personal reasons. Luella Landis is the Chairwoman of the Commission.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Luella Landis at 10:31 a.m.

Roll Call:      Ann Grasso                      Ann Jordan                      Luella Landis  
                    Madeline Lowry                      Paula Luna                      Linda Polke  
                    Patricia Sienna                      Mertie Terry (*arrived at 10:35*)

Absent:          Shirley Banic                      Helen Zalewski

Others:          Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director

Pat Ahlquist, Council Liaison

Al Waters, Council Liaison

### Approval/Amendment of Agenda

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

### Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting made by Paula Luna; seconded by Madeline Lowry. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

The AARP Community Challenge Grant is due April 1, 2020. Amy is working with Parks and Recreation and will apply for intergenerational park improvements (resurface tennis courts, add pickleball lines, paved walking paths, bocce court, adaptive swings).

The Golf League is meeting on March 19, 2020, and will begin in April.

There are 3 "Lunch and Learns" schedule for this month:

- March 12 – Focused Awareness Meditation
- March 24 – Acid Reflux and Natural Ways to Prevent Heartburn
- March 31 – The Secure Act and 2020 Medicare Changes

Amy has received great feedback on the CHOICES counselor. She will continue with appointments on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.

On March 17, 2020, there will be activities and Irish themed foods in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

The Drama Club is working on their next performance ("To bag or not to bag"), which will be in May.

The Seniors Serving Seniors will interview seniors age 80 and older to write about their life stories and hopefully publish the stories.

Registration for the Easter Food Basket Program, through Human Services, is through March 19, 2020. Baskets will be picked up on April 2, 2020, from 1:00-3:00 (note: bingo is cancelled that day).

There are 8 out trips this month.

The Board of Finance Budget meeting will be on April 1, 2020, at 7:00 pm. It would be helpful to have seniors in attendance.

The Senior Donation Account Balance is \$22,099.

#### **Senior Center/Community Center Subcommittee – Ann Grasso**

The Mayor said that the Town Manager was looking at space behind Pierson Park.

The seniors need to continue to be proactive. This should be a senior/community center.

Amy is awaiting a response from the Town Manager to see how the subcommittee could help him. Pat Ahlquist suggested that they ask other towns that recently built/renovated their senior centers about funding. The subcommittee should visit other centers and look for funding.

#### **Council Liaison Update - Pat Ahlquist**

The highway department wants \$450,000 for a radio system. The Mayor has "ear marked" \$200,000 for that and will keep it in the capital fund; \$100,000 is "ear marked" for the senior/community center. (This still needs to pass through the April 1, 2020, Board of Finance Meeting). No one was in attendance at the last town council meeting. Pat reminded the commission that the seniors need to be present even if there is not an opportunity to speak.

Pat reached out to Christie Carpino. She will meet with Amy and Ann Grasso when her schedule quiets down.

Funding for a study of the usage of all town buildings has been set aside. The job descriptions and salaries for all town employees will be reviewed (last completed in 2002).

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

**Old Business – FY21 Budget Update**

The Board of Finance Budget meeting is April 1, 2020, at 7 pm.

Amy provided a job description for the Senior Center Program/Outreach Coordinator, which will be a full time position.

**New Business – Proposed fees**

Proposed fees will be discussed at the next Town Council meeting. Amy provided a chart outlining towns and their fees. Currently non-Cromwell seniors are charged \$25/year, and there are about 150 out-of-town members. There are 4 paid instructors and there are no additional fees for classes for everyone.

**Citizens Comments – None**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ann Grasso; seconded by Linda Polke.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman  
Recording Clerk