

Senior Services Commission

June 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Luella Landis at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Judy Benvenuto Deirdre Daly Steven Falco
 Ann Jordan Anne Kaiser Luella Landis
 Pat Snow Bonnie Sprague

Absent: Mertie Terry

Others: Amy Saada
 Nick Talbot – Senior Center Outreach Coordinator

Paula Luna – Town Council
Al Waters – Town Council
Kathleen Cartwright – Cromwell Resident

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Steven Falco; seconded by Judy Benvenuto. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022, Regular Meeting made by Pat Snow; seconded by Judy Benvenuto. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Pride Month was celebrated last week with Thomas Foran speaking on labeling and bullying. The lunch was sponsored by Autumn Lake.

There will be a Father's Day lunch sponsored by CRT on June 16th and a Father's Day breakfast and billiards at the Senior Center on June 17th.

There will be a "lunch and learn" on June 23rd with local author, Arte Perdida.

Apple Rehab is sponsoring a monthly ice cream social on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The Arthritis Exercise Class will change from once a week to twice a week starting in July.

Tina, the Wellness Nurse, will be leaving at the end of the month. Sal Nesci, from the Health Department, is looking for a replacement.

The pickleball and tennis courts are now open at Watrous Park. There are portable nets and balls in the shed. Residents will need to call the Recreation Department or the Senior Center for the lock code.

The Farmers Market is up and running. Voucher distribution for income eligible seniors will be on July 7th from 10-12 at the Senior Center.

CRT needs assistance with Meals on Wheels. The meals, which are made in Hartford, will be transported to Cromwell Town Hall for distribution to Cromwell seniors. Volunteers are screened and background checked and will be reimbursed for mileage.

The Senior Center had 4 vehicles, 1 shared (with Portland) vehicle and a mini van. The mini van and 1 bus have been taken off the road, and one of the older busses has a rusted bottom. As a result, trips have been decreased to every other week. Amy was offered a 1989 mini van however it is full of mold. The town garage is conducting a safety inspection and trying to clean the mold.

There was quite a lot of discussion among the Commission members regarding the vehicle shortage. Amy reminded the Commission that she received a grant for a new bus, but that vehicle won't be delivered until the summer of 2023.

Al Waters suggested using a town vehicle to transport seniors to medical appointments. He also suggested all Senior Commission members reach out to the Town Manager about this situation. He thinks they should write a letter to the Mayor outlining the vehicle crisis and include the cost of a new vehicle and ask that it be read at the next Town Council Meeting, which is July 13th. He thinks that Seniors should also attend the meeting. He was wondering if Rescue Fund money could be used for a new vehicle.

Director of Public Health Update – N/A

Council Liaison Update – Al Waters

The parade went off very well.

The former Director of Public Works has been rehired.

Six police officers were recently honored for their protective handling for recent incidents.

Al forgot to ask at the last Town Council meeting who has the authority to assign rooms/meeting space. He will try to ask that question at the July meeting.

Old Business – Amy Saada

a. Community Center Discussion/Updates

They walked through Watrous Park. Silver Petrucelli will provide 3 conceptual drawings (two located at Watrous Park and one located at Pierson Park).

New Business

a. Election of Officers

Bonnie Sprague nominated Steven Falco for the position of Chairperson, however he respectfully declined. Deirdre Daly nominated Anne Kaiser. There were no further nominations.

Motion to elect Anne Kaiser to the position of Chairperson was made. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Judy Benvenuto nominated Deirdre Daly to the position of Vice Chairperson. There were no further nominations.

Motion to elect Deirdre Daly to the position of Vice Chairperson was made. All in favor. Motion Carried.

The Commission thanked Luella Landis for all her work on the Commission. Luella thanked Amy, Nick, the Commission members and the Town Council liaisons.

Citizen's Comments

There are openings for Senior Services Commission Members. The question about renewing terms came up. This needs to be brought to the Mayor's attention. Al Waters suggested that a letter be send to the Mayor listing all those whose appointment has expired and ask that they be re-appointed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Kaiser; seconded by Judy Benvenuto. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman
Recording Clerk