

**Senior Services Commission
April 13, 2015
Minutes-Regular Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Mary Konopka, at 10:30 a.m.

Roll Call:	Mary Konopka	Theresa Fucini	Claire Hickey
	Patricia Sienna	Madeline Lowry	Helen Zalewski
	Linda Polke	Patricia Alsup	

Absent:	James Gere	Caroljoyce Cannito	Eleanor Corciullo
---------	------------	--------------------	-------------------

Others:	Joy Hollister, Senior/Human Services Director
	Wesley Bell, Public Health Director
	Mertie Terry, Town Council Liaison

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Patricia Sienna, seconded by Helen Zalewski. All in favor; Unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 26, 2015 Regular Meeting made by Patricia Sienna, seconded by Linda Polke. All in favor; Unanimous vote.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report-Joy Hollister

Joy opened up her presentation by stating that she sent out packages with all documents and reports for today's meeting. She discussed the Spring Dinner scheduled for April 29, 2015. Currently there are over 100 people signed up to attend. There will be several volunteers in attendance, including Patricia Sienna and her husband. Joy also has an excellent singer lined up to perform. Joy discussed the Volunteer Luncheon scheduled for April 23, 2015. RSVP is needed by today for an exact count. Joy opened up her report for questions. Patricia Sienna had a question about the online sign up for the Spring Dinner and the waiting list generated. Joy said that there normally is a 100 person cap, but anyone wanting to attend can. There were 120 in attendance last year. There will be no cap this year.

Cromwell Senior Commission Minutes
April 13, 2015
Page Two

Director of Public Health Update-Wesley Bell

Wesley opened up his report by stating that recently, four flu cases have been reported for both type A and type B, and so stay vigilant; flu season is not over yet. He also discussed Tick season. Dress appropriately when outside gardening, and if you are bitten, and a red mark appears, please see your doctor. One dose of medication can clean things up in 48 hours. The biggest concerns this year are the Lyme tick and the Wood tick, both of which carry viruses from deer and mice. A Senior Commission member stated that your pet's can also bring ticks into your home. Patricia Sienna suggested having your spouse, or anyone else that may reside in your home, to check out the parts of your body that you are not able to see, such as your back. The report was opened up for questions. No questions posed.

Town Council Liaison Report-Mertie Terry

Mertie suggested that everyone please make plans to attend the first meeting of the newly formed, Re-Development group, on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. It will be an opportunity to voice new ideas and to submit any future development sites, such as empty store fronts in town that you may be aware of, or the river front. Next Mertie reported that the Town Budget was down to 1.3%; however, the school budget was up, due to the number of disabled students in town. The town is mandated by the state of Connecticut to provide services to accommodate the disabled. It can be at a school in Cromwell, or in any other town within Connecticut that can better suit the needs of that child. Originally, the School Budget was brought in at an increase of 4.4%, but that was cut down to a 3.35% increase in town taxes. Also reported by Mertie; there will be a charge for the use of the town Transfer Station. Effective January 1, 2016, there will be a \$25.00 per year fee to anyone using the Transfer Station. There will also be a fee for usage of the town fields by out of Towner's. There will be a \$100.00 per year fee and a \$15.00 per person fee, in addition. However, there may be a waiver for the American Legion teams which consist of players from Rocky hill, Portland, and Cromwell. Mertie encouraged everyone to go out and vote on the Referendums on the ballot and let your voices be heard. When the Town Council Report was opened up questions, Patricia Alsup asked about unauthorized use of the fields, and how will that be handled. Mertie said she did not have an answer, but that she would bring it up to the council. Several Senior Commission members suggested posting signs at the parks to inform the public of the new policies. Madeline Lowry asked Mertie if the Town Council had come up with a ball park figure as to how much money the new fees would generate. Mertie said she did not know. Mary Konopka asked about expired Senior Commission memberships, since April is the month that Terms expire, and if they needed to contact Mr. Enzo Faieza, Mayor of Cromwell. Mertie said that when their terms expire, they are automatically put back on the list for another term.

Cromwell Senior Commission Minutes
April 13, 2015
Page Three

Old Business-

- a. The establishment of a Subcommittee to survey programs of other Towns, was again Tabled.
- b. A motion to discuss the purchase of a second Pool Table, from the Donation Fund, was made by Theresa Fucini, and was seconded by Linda Polke, and then the discussion was turned over to Joy Hollister. Joy stated that she spoke to the man who services the Senior Center's current Pool Table. He will be supplying pictures of the table he has available for purchase as soon as he is able to clear out the storage area; delayed due to this winter's snow accumulation. He informed Joy that the price for the Pool table will be higher than originally quoted, (\$1100.00 vs. \$800.00), because the table is one large piece/slate, not the customary three pieces/slats, therefore, he will need to hire someone to help[p him move and transport the Pool Table. The age of the new Pool table is the same as the table the Center currently has, 30 years old. The look of the table is different, but just as well made. Suggestions were made at the last Senior Commission Meeting to get other prices. A few men from the Pool Team spoke to someone at Namco who quoted \$1600.00-\$1800.00 for a brand new Pool Table. Patricia Alsup asked if the quality of the Namco tables were as good as the Center's current Pool Table. Jim responded by saying, "No". He said 3 slated tables are not as stable and sturdy as one slated tables. He said the 30 year old table was made in Hartford, Ct. and is very well made. Mary Konopka asked Joy for a recommendation as to which table to purchase. Jim said that the Cromwell Senior Center is now playing in tournaments, but because they only have one Pool Table, they are not able to invite other towns to play at the Cromwell Center. Pat Alsup made a motion to have Joy and Jim purchase the Pool Table from the guy that services their current Pool Table. Helen Zalewski seconded the motion. All in favor; unanimous vote.

Cromwell Senior Commission Minutes
April 13, 2015
Page four

New Business-

- a. Program Suggestions-None made.
- b. Future Senior Commission Dates- Mary Konopka stated that it had been suggested by other Senior Commission members to cut back on the number of Commission meetings held each year. Mary said that she and Joy had looked into that and the schedule could not be changed until December, 2015. Joy Hollister spoke up, to clarify the current rules for meeting as a Commission. The dates they currently have were forwarded to the office of the Secretary of State, so if the group decides not to meet on a particular month, they can just cancel the meeting and meet the following month. If they then change the dates and meet, it will be a Special Meeting not a Regular Meeting. In order to totally ratify all meeting dates already in place, it will have to be amended, a more complex process. The Commission decided to Table this discussion since the Commission member most vocal about making a change, was not present today. A motion was made by Madeline Lowry to Table this discussion until the next meeting, and it was seconded by Claire Hickey.
- c. The use of donation account to extend quilting-A New Teacher is teaching the class, and the class is now flourishing and they would like to go back to year round classes vs. only six months per year (Jan.-Jun.). Question was asked if extending the classes would disrupt the Senior Center budget. Joy wants to get feedback before adding it to her official fiscal budget. The program is currently being funded by the Senior Center's Donation Fund, which was set up to enhance senior programs, not just fund them. Joy suggested carrying the teacher until the end of June, 2016, then having the Senior Commission re-vote on the issue. The Quilting teacher is currently contracted for 32 weeks. It was suggested contracting her from June 2015 –July 2016, for a total of 52 weeks, or considering snow days and holidays, around 46 weeks. Mary Konopka asked how much would be needed to extend the Quilting program. Joy answered around \$500.00. Mary Konopka suggested voting and then leaving it in the Finance Department's hands. Patricia Alsup motioned to extend the quilting for one year and let the Finance Department determine the rest. The motion was seconded by Claire Hickey. All in favor; unanimous vote. Mertie Terry then mentioned that she is a part of the Downtown Merchants Association and that they have a program called "Quilts of Valor" where they donate quilts to Vets. She wanted to know if the Cromwell Senior Center wanted to be a part of the program. A member of the Quilting class said that they were not able to be a part of the "Quilts of Valor" program due to red tape. Mary Konopka suggested Mertie speak to a Ms. Carol Erickson about the Senior Center donating quilts to Vet's.
- d. Review of program subsidies budget for 2015/2016- Mary Konopka discussed the printout in the Agenda packet showing the Senior Center Budget for subsidies. Mary then opened the floor up for suggestions and/or comments on amending the budget. Joy Hollister stated that she kept the Budget the same as the previous year, except for the Program Subsidies. Patricia Alsup asked if money can be moved from one account to another. Joy said, "Yes", and explained that all items listed on the print out are considered "One Budget Line" for accounting purposes.

Cromwell Senior Commission Minutes
April 13, 2015
Page Five

New Business-continued

d. Some members wanted to know why the Budget needed to be discussed since it has already been approved. Joy mentioned that according to the Bylaws, the budget does need to be discussed in the meetings. Linda Polke talked about the Movie Allocations and bringing that dollar amount down by purchasing Net Flex. Joy said she was working on that. Madeline Lowry mentioned that the Library has a budget for movies, so why not utilize their budget for Senior Center movies and let the Town of Cromwell pay for it. Linda Polke said that scenario had already been discussed, and the town said no, they could not merge the two budgets. Mary Konopka wanted to know why seniors cannot borrow movies from the library as it is done in other towns. The senior center currently donates movies to the library, so why can't the senior center borrow movies from the library. Joy will check in to that.

Citizen Comments-

None

Good and Welfare-

None

Misc-

Mary Konopka stated that there would be a meeting in June because election of officers takes place then. Mary stated that she no longer is interested in being Chairman, because she has done it for 5-6 years. Mary stated that she and Joy will make the decision to have a meeting in May, if there is an agenda, but there usually is not.

Adjournment-

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Madeline Lowry, and seconded by Mertie Terry. All in favor; unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Weston
Clerk