

Senior Services Commission

October 18, 2021

Prior to the start of the meeting, Luella Landis introduced two new commission members: Judy Benvenuto and Anne Kaiser.

The meeting was called to order by Luella Landis at 10:35 a.m.

Present:	Judy Benvenuto	Deirdre Daly	Anne Kaiser	Luella Landis
	Paula Luna	Pat Snow	Bonnie Sprague	

Absent:	Ann Jordan	Mertie Terry
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Others:	Amy Saada, Senior/Human Services Director
	Nick Talbot, Senior Outreach Coordinator
	Al Waters, Town Council Liaison
	Steve Falco, Cromwell Resident

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Deirdre Daly; seconded by Bonnie Sprague. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting made by Pat Snow; seconded by Paula Luna. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

There are no grant updates at this time. The DOT grant will be announced in early 2022.

Program Updates:

There were 65 attendees at the "Celebrate Senior Center Month" event in September.

The Drama Club put on a wonderful performance and there were over 50 attendees. The next performance will be in December.

The Golf League had a great season and concluded with their annual banquet on October 14, 2021.

The Outdoor Halloween celebration will be on October 29, 2021 at Pierson Park. There will be hot cider, food and different events. Please call to sign up.

In November, there will be chair volleyball, regular volleyball and arthritis exercise with Marcy. Sandra, the tai chi instructor, is retiring at the end of the month. There will be a new tai chi instructor, named Lisa.

The budget season is coming up. There is currently no charge for classes. New classes need to be included in the budget in order for them to be funded. If classes are approved, they won't start until July 2022. Provide any ideas to Amy.

It is Open Enrollment time. Remember to review your plans. Nick attended CHOICES training.

The November Trips are:

- 11/3 – Olde Mystic Village shops or The Steak Loft
- 11/10 – Roger's Orchards and Pagliacci's Restaurant
- 11/18 – Wadsworth Athenaeum and Salute Restaurant
- 11/24 – Christmas Tree Shops in Manchester

Director of Public Health Update – N/A

Council Liaison Update – Al Waters

The last Town Council meeting was Enzo's last meeting.

The open house was canceled at the Landon Apartments.

There were two grievances. Al asked the Town Council why the grievances aren't handled by the Town Manager's Office and that they don't belong at Town Council meetings. If they don't get resolved, then they will go to the Department of Labor which will be more expensive due to legal fees.

Rates for disposal are increasing. It is currently \$25/year to use the transfer station. They may provide a discount punch card for seniors. This has been tabled until next meeting.

A town resident complained and wants the parks department to be taken over by another department. The resident was not happy because the fields were closed after heavy rain.

Old Business - Community Center Discussion/Updates – Amy

The feasibility study shows what space could potentially be used for an "all age" community center. The Pierson Park space is not large enough.

Amy has reached out to the Recreation Department to see if anyone on their commission wants to join forces with members of the Senior Services Commission to go to Town Council meetings and be a voice for what is needed.

In 2009, a senior center study looked at town properties for senior center usage. Watrous Park was one option. Amy has this report available. In the Silver/Petrucelli study, Watrous Park would still work but trees would need to be cut down.

Amy suggested that commission members go visit some of the newer senior centers and see what is being offered. Anne Kaiser suggested determining what land is available. Amy has that information from the 2009 study and will send it to the Commission. Amy reminded the commission that it is not their job to find the location but they should advise the Town Council what is needed (in terms of gym, meeting space, etc.).

The Commission thanked Amy and told her that she is doing a great job.

New Business

- A. Knights of Columbus "Leave no neighbor behind" food drive – This will be held in November and December. Amy will send the commission the drop off sites.
- B. Boy Scout Food Drive – 11/12/21 – This is a very large food drive and stocks the pantry through April.
- C. Senior Commission Vacancies/Appointments – Per the bylaws, there needs to be 11 commission members and 5 members must be present for a quorum. There are two new members and Amy will continue to advertise.
Anne Kaiser reminded everyone to remember Pat Alsup, who previously passed away, for her service to the Senior Commission.
- D. Drama Club Holiday Event – The next performance will be December 16, 2021 at 2:30 in the atrium.
- E. Exercise Class updates/Changes – discussed under Director's Report.

Citizen's Comments – N/A

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judy Benvenuto; seconded by Paula Luna. Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman
Recording Clerk