

Senior Services Commission

April 18, 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
 Bonnie Sprague

Absent: Pat Snow Mertie Terry

Others: Amy Saada - Senior/Human Services Director
 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 Judy Benvenuto; seconded by Anne Kaiser. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2022, Regular Meeting made by Deirdre Daly; seconded by Bonnie Sprague. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Amy reminded the Commission that room set-up should not be done by seniors. All room set-up should be handled by maintenance. Let Amy know if a room is not set-up prior to the program.

The Tai Chi Quan program is a grant-funded program. It is intended for participants who are frail and the curriculum is fast paced. Some participants are complaining about soreness. Amy will discuss with the program coordinator and the class instructor.

The volunteer luncheon, sponsored by National Healthcare Associates, is tomorrow.

Earth Day, Friday, April 22nd, will be celebrated with a park clean up event. Volunteers are needed.

There will be a Lunch & Learn on right-sizing your home on May 26th and Nutrition Education on 5/10. Weather permitting, outdoor cornhole will begin on May 2nd. The Post Office “stamp out hunger” food drive will be on May 14th. Volunteers are needed.

Director of Public Health Update – N/A

Council Liaison Update – Al Waters

The tennis courts were poured on Friday. They will need to “sit” before lines can be painted. They should be ready in June.

The Town Council approved two trucks for the highway department (plow/dump trucks) for approximately \$500,000.

The Cromwell Middle School building committee chairperson gave her presentation. It includes a 2-story building. A possible location is on the soccer field between Watrous Park and the current Middle School. There was a question about using the old Middle School for a Community Center, however Deirdre Daly advised the Commission that a school campus can only include school buildings (due to safety).

There was discussion amongst the Commission members about Finance Committee members also being members of the Middle School Building Committee.

Old Business – Amy Saada

a. Community Center Discussion/Updates– Amy Saada

Amy will be attending a meeting tomorrow with the Town Manager, Recreation, Engineering and Silver Petrucelli. Amy mentioned the need to address the building space and programming (appropriate square footage). Judy Benvenuto expressed concern because the town has done studies before on what needs to be done, but then nothing happens. Amy said there was a 2007 study. Amy suggested a sub-committee that could/should be vocal. The Middle School building committee is very vocal. They are hosting an open house at the Middle School and are doing a presentation for the Seniors. They are also very active on Facebook. A community center building committee needs to include representatives from recreation, seniors, youth, etc. Al Waters suggested that seniors come to Town Council meetings and ask for a community center building committee. Amy suggested that seniors attend every Town Council meeting. Anne Kaiser inquired about the land by the Fire Department on Coles Road and Al advised that the water department owns that land.

Steven Falco met with Kara (library director) to discuss construction of the Belden Room. She is willing to come and discuss her experience with the Senior Commission. The project took way too long (almost

missed the deadline for reimbursement); there were internal issues among town departments; overall, she would give Silver Petrucelli a B+.

b. Older American's Month Celebration– Amy Saada

May is Older American's Month. There will be a celebration with a concert in the park on May 25th at 5:00 with food trucks and raffles. The rain date is May 26th.

The Drama Club's performance will be in the Belden Room on May 12th. There is limited space so sign up early.

The art class will have a week-long art show with a reception and refreshments.

New Business

a. Middle School Building Committee Presentation to Seniors 5/4/22 – Amy Saada

The presentation will be in the Senior Center on Wednesday, May 4th.

b. UR Community Cares – Amy Saada

This grant-funded program is new to Middlesex County. It provides free help at home (household chores, yard work, companionship, transportation) for residents age 70 and older or age 18 and older with physical disabilities. Volunteers, who are background checked, are needed. Amy will put this information in the newsletter.

There was extensive discussion about the use of meeting space in Town Hall, particularly the Arch Room. Al Waters told the Commission that residents have the right to use the Arch Room, if available. He recommended that Seniors come to a Town Council meeting and ask for clarification on meeting room usage and the sign-up procedure. This will be discussed in more detail at the next Commission meeting.

Citizen's Comments - None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deirdre Daly; seconded by Anne Kaiser. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman
Recording Clerk