

Senior Services Commission

January 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Anne Kaiser at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Deirdre Daly Ann Jordan Anne Kaiser
Pat Snow Bonnie Sprague

Absent: Judy Benvenuto Steven Falco Mertie Terry
Linda Worden

Others: Amy Saada – Senior/Human Services Director
Paula Luna – Town Council
Salvatore Nesci – Director of Public Health (*arrived at 10:45*)

Kara Canney – Library Director
Kathleen Cartwright – Cromwell Resident

Approval/Amendment of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022, Regular Meeting made by Deirdre Daly; seconded by Anne Kaiser. All in favor. Motion carried.

Senior/Human Services Director's Report – Amy Saada

Amy provided grant information:

- Awarded \$4671 grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County for new commercial Bingo machine, console and 8' electronic flashboard (which will allow seniors to see the numbers in addition to them being called).
- Applied for a grant through the CT FoodBank for a new vehicle which would be used to regularly pick up food at the CT FoodBank and other partners (Stop & Shop, Starbucks, etc.). It would also be used to provide delivery to those who cannot make it to the food bank and support efforts to open food banks in the schools.

Remaining January programs:

- January 11th - KinCare Kickoff – This program was up and running pre-COVID; dinner and childcare will be provided with the hope to have a monthly support group.
- January 11th – “Lunch & Learn” sponsored by Vein Centers of CT.
- January 18th – There are two spots left for the trip to the Pez visitor center and lunch.
- January 18th – Dementia Support Group with Mary Klatt from Benchmark Senior Living.
- January 25th – Billiards Tournament.

Appointments will begin on February 6th for the AARP free income tax preparation. This program, which runs through April 17, 2023, is a free service regardless of age, income or town of residence. In 2022, 181 people participated.

CRT (out of Hartford) provides the meals for Meals on Wheels. They deliver the meals to Cromwell and 9 volunteers drivers are available (background checked and trained) to deliver them. Amy recently learned that Cromwell has 15 MOW clients and anyone new would be placed on a waiting list. Amy needs voices and support to address this, since it is not serving those in need.

Gabriella Brown has resigned and her last day is January 13, 2023. Amy has received more than 75 applications for this job.

The Energy Assistance Program has seen a significant increase in Applicants. 139 applications have been processed since the program opened on October 5, 2022. Amy will handle this until someone else is trained.

Operation Fuel opened on December 19, 2022. This is an additional heating program, but CEARP application must be completed and awarded before applying for this program.

Bonnie Sprague questioned if Operation Fuel includes gas. Amy replied that it does.

Prior to the meeting, Judy Benvenuto shared a newspaper article with Amy. Cromwell Planning and Zoning has an online survey for their 10-year plan. There are also paper copies available. Amy reminded the Commission that this is a good time to provide input on the Community Center, affordable housing and transportation.

Director of Public Health Update – Salvatore Nesci

This is Radon Awareness Month and free radon test kits are available.

Many COVID test kits that were distributed will be expiring within the next 2 weeks. There are plenty of test kits with expiration dates that are further out. Due to the new booster, symptoms appear to be more mild. Because most people are testing at home and not reporting results, the positivity rate is much higher than what is publicized.

Council Liaison Update – Paula Luna

There are no updates. The next Town Council meeting is January 11, 2023.

Old Business – None

New Business

a. FY24 Budget Discussion

The Senior Center budget is dealing with inflation, increased food and bingo prize costs, wage increases for the PT instructors. Capital projects includes looking at flooring. Amy asked for suggestions on what is needed.

b. Community Foundation of Middlesex County Grant Award – previously discussed under Human Services Director's Report.

c. Meals on Wheels Program Updates – Amy asked the Commission Members to send letters to their representatives. She will share information when she receives it.

New Business – None

Citizen's Comments – None

Anne Kaiser stopped at the Town Clerk's office because there has been a lot of discussion about who can be on the Commission based on their political affiliation. Anne received the mission and by-laws from 2019. Amy told her that it was last updated in 2021. Amy will ensure that the Town Clerk has the most recent version. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Kaiser, seconded by Deirdre Daly. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stockman
Recording Clerk