

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Commission on Aging Virtual Meeting
Friday, February 25, 2022
2:00 pm

The Commission on Aging held a virtual meeting on Friday, February 25, 2022.

Present: Chairman Michael Ganino, Ron Foligno, Mark Ryan, Jean DaRold and Alissa Heilbrunn

Absent: Evelyn Wiesner

Also Present: Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services, Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Assistant and Paulette Mack, Interim Executive Director, Stern Village

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Mr. Ganino followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for our departed brothers and sisters and their families and prayers for the Ukrainian people.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Past Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Foligno to approve the minutes of December 17, 2021 as written. Seconded by Mr. Ryan and approved by unanimous consent.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Senior Center Director's Report

Mrs. Jakab noted the following:

1. The Center has reopened and they are starting more in-person programs but also maintaining virtual programs.
2. Social Services is still taking applications for various programs.
3. The Food Pantry is doing well with donations from various organizations.
4. The budget process has started and a meeting was held with the First Selectman to present a proposed budget. Not many changes were made although a new position for a custodian was added.
5. Welcome back activities are being planned with the Parks Department in the summer.
6. Discussion was held regarding the proposed new position. In the past, the Center had an individual from the Kennedy Center and another from the town who shared the responsibility. This arrangement changed with COVID and they are now looking to hire a Building Attendant for

19.5 hours per week who will help set up for events and do other duties, not necessarily cleaning.

7. On Thursday, March 10, the Attorney General will be presenting a program at the Senior Center on the Elder Justice Initiative which allows the elderly to call if they feel they have been taken advantage of. It was suggested the lunch on that day be provided gratis for the attendees of the program.
8. They have more attendees in the lunch program now than they did before COVID. The chef is providing great meals. You do not have to be a Trumbull resident to use the program which is for age 55 and over.
9. The Food Pantry is for Trumbull residents only but they will not turn away any individual in need. After the initial visit, they will direct them to the appropriate program.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Ganino had no report.

Report from Stern Village

Ms. Paulette Mack, the newly appointed Interim Executive Director, was introduced. No report was given.

Topics of Interest or Concern from Members

No discussion.

Old Business

1. Update on Community Facility Building Committee – Mr. Foligno noted the Building Committee and the Aquatics Committee will be working collaboratively. A presentation was held on February 9 with an architect presenting three scenerios for a pool. Cost varies dramatically depending on scale of project. Hardy Lane is in the forefront of consideration for a location. Discussion was held regarding the four properties for sale by the Town near the Library. Mrs. Katske noted all have been sold to individuals for residential use only. Town Council approved the sales. Mr. Ganino expressed his concern for the traffic in the area of Hardy Lane on Church Hill Road and hoped it was being addressed.
2. Art Display at Town Hall – Mrs. DaRold noted this is moving forward and that she has artists who are anxious to display their work. Mrs. Jakob will be sending another email to all the instructors and will contact Linda to help with the display at Town Hall.
3. Mural – Mr. Ganino will resend information regarding the proposed mural. Mrs. Jakob noted she will resend information to Jill Nichols who has volunteered to follow-up on the grant which opens up again in March.
4. Update on Police Presentation – Mr. Ryan noted the Police Department is prepared to make a presentation to the Commission at the next in-person meeting. Suggested topics are internet scams and crime in Trumbull. Any other topics should be emailed to Mr. Ryan for consideration. After discussion, it was agreed to have the March meeting in person at the Senior Center at 2:00 pm. Mr. Ryan will confirm the availability of the Police Department presenter.
5. Sunshine Fund Update – no report.

New Business

1. Enhanced Communications/Email Addresses – Mr. Ganino spoke with Mrs. Jakob regarding mailing lists she has at the Center that could be used for distribution of materials. Mrs. Jakob noted they have a very large database of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 older adults in town.

Discussion was held about the feasibility of mailing information versus email or social media. It was noted that there are still individuals who do not have a computer or are unable to navigate a computer and, therefore, are potentially left out. Mailings may be the only way to reach these individuals with pertinent information. Question was asked if something could be put into the tax bills from the Town. Mrs. Katske noted the Annual Report already is included in the tax bill and the park stickers are included in the auto tax mailings. Additional information included would increase the cost of the mailing.

2. Discussion was held regarding requesting funding in the budget for the Commission's use. Mrs. Katske discussed the budget process and noted the First Selectman's budget has been prepared and is being forwarded to the Board of Finance for their review. She also noted adding a line item to the budget follows a process and would require rationale as to why it is needed with specifics. Mrs. Katske suggested the Commission discuss this proposed budget line item, put a request together and back up the request with specifics before any discussion with the First Selectman.
3. Discussion was held regarding the use of the Adult Education brochure, which is mailed to every household in town, as a means of disseminating information to the older adults in the community. Cost is unknown.
4. Mr. Ganino will send to the Commissioners the page in the Charter describing the charge of the Commission on Aging. It was also noted that the fully revised Town Charter is now available in Town Hall for the public.
5. Mr. Ganino noted Spectrum has a program that will reduce the cost of TV plans for seniors. This could be of interest to seniors.
6. Trumbull has a volunteer program in place. Applications must be completed and submitted for approval by the Town. Individuals who volunteer within the town departments will receive a credit to their tax bill.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 pm. Seconded by Mrs. DaRold and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk