Commission on Aging

TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, February 27, 2026
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall
2:00 pm

Present: Chairman Ron Foligno, Linda Randall, Kathleen Bordelon, Mark Ryan, Paul McGeary, Evelyn Wiesner and Deborah Gilbert Taylor

Absent: Eve Rothbard

Also Present: Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services; Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Officer; Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Chairman, Community Facilities Building Committee and First Selectman Vickie Tesoro

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Mr. Foligno followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
Michael Ganino, 3 Canterbury Lane – Mr. Ganino spoke regarding the services he received from the Veteran's Hospital with respect to reconstruction of his leg and mental health assistance. He urged the Commission to reach out to veterans in Trumbull, possibly through the First Selectman, encouraging them to receive treatment for any PTSD symptoms by visiting a nearby facility in Orange, Bridgeport, Stamford or New Haven. Individuals from those locations would be willing to make a presentation to the veterans. Mr. Foligno noted several senior topics are being addressed by the First Selectman and the Commission will move this initiative forward. Ms. Bordelon thanked Mr. Ganino for sharing his personal experience. By coming forward, it helps to remove the stigma of mental health issues and the importance of finding help.

Past Minutes
Motion was made by Mrs. Wiesner to approve the minutes of January 23, 2026; seconded by Ms. Randall and approved.

Draft Letter Regarding the Senior Center
Mr. McGeary noted the letter expresses the sentiment of the Commission in favor of expediting an effort to revisit the issue of building a new senior center/community center in Town. It

doesn't argue for any particular site or scale. It does recommend to not wait the two years as required by the Charter by either changing location or scale. **Motion was made by Mr. McGeary that this be adopted by the Commission as an expression of its sentiment and forward it to the First Selectman. Seconded by Ms. Bordelon. Unanimous.** Mrs. Katske felt this resolution was a great idea to be forwarded to the First Selectman. The First Selectman feels strongly and would like to be able to move forward with this. At the last Town Council meeting, they approved the hiring of Recon MR, a consultant, to conduct a survey of Trumbull residents to gather resident input that will inform evaluation, planning, and next steps related to a potential senior and/or community center. Mrs. Hayes-O'Brien and Mrs. Katske discussed the process to be used, noting the Public Works Sub-Committee of the Town Council would be overseeing the survey questions. It was unknown if the Commissioners would have input with regard to the questions; encouraged to attend the Sub-Committee's meeting. After further discussion, **Mr. McGeary amended his motion to include the Town Council and the Public Works Sub-Committee in the distribution of his letter. Seconded by Ms. Bordelon and approved unanimously.** Discussion was held regarding misinformation presented to the public regarding the project and the fact that many residents did not attend the information sessions.

Update on the Veteran's Center

Mr. Foligno thanked the Town Council for approving the additional funding for the construction of the veteran's center. Tentative build start is April/May with completion in 9/10 months.

COACT

Mr. McGeary noted the second meeting of the group was scheduled for later in the afternoon which would be a deeper dive into the data received through an on-line survey. This was to ascertain priorities of the various Commissions on Aging and groups that represent elder issues. He and Mr. Ryan will continue to participate. Ms. Bordelon noted this is a wonderful initiative that brings together the Commissions across the state to help create a stronger network to funnel information to the State. The Agencies on Aging are not members of the COACT but all the information is combined to increase advocacy. Mr. Foligno noted Rob Librandi is the Town's ADA Coordinator. (COACT minutes from the initial meeting were posted on-line with the January 23, 2026 Commission on Aging meeting minutes.)

Reports

<u>Senior Center Report</u>

Mrs. Jakab reported the following:

1. On Thursday, March 19, they will be hosting an "Ask the Experts" panel. It is open to the public. Six experts in the field of aging will be on hand to share their knowledge through a Jeopardy style game. Panelists include an elder law attorney, a homecare consultant, a senior living advisor and others. There will be raffle prize opportunities. Flyers were distributed.
2. On March 11, they are partnering with Caring Transitions for their second A Day in the Life: Senior Living Community Tour. Members participate in a bus tour to different senior living communities in the area to learn what they have to offer. At each stop,

they will either be participating in an activity or enjoying a delicious snack or meal. Spaces are limited.

3. The Senior Center Wellness Nurse, Susan Clay, is kicking off a new group that will meet on the second Thursday every month at 9:00 am. It is called Positive Living with Nurse Susan. Each month there will be a different topic for open group discussion. The topic for March 12 will be getting the most of your visit with your doctor and understanding MyChart.
4. The area Southwest CT Agency on Aging sent a representative to the Center to discuss a two year study in each community they serve with regard to what their needs are. At the end of the study, they will be taking the information to the State. Several individuals attended the meeting and discussed topics such as transportation and low income housing. Mrs. Jakab discussed the GBT Connect program and how it works in the community.
5. Otilia is the new office manager in Social Services. She is bi-lingual, speaking Spanish and Portuguese, and has been an asset with her management skills.
6. Emailed the portion of the Council meeting regarding the survey for the Commissioners to review. Seniors will be encouraged to answer their telephones if they want to participate.
7. Review of programing will be conducted.

Stern Village Report
No report.

Chairman's Report
No additional report.

Concerns of and Concerns for Senior Citizens – Ms. Gilbert Taylor has been reappointed to the Commission after an absence and noted she reviewed the minutes from the past year and pulled out several discussion items of interest. Felt there were some great ideas. Her list was distributed to the Commission and will be reviewed at the next meeting with regard to status.

Possible Presentation
Mr. McGeary recommended a Medicare information presentation in the early fall to review all the changes for the next year. Mrs. Jakab noted they do hold several sessions on this topic at the Center but it might be beneficial to have a presentation at the Commission meeting as it would be televised and would reach another part of the population. Many times Medicare has not released current information until after the enrollment period starts.

Mr. McGeary also recommended a program on computer fraud scams. Could do a program in conjunction with AARP. PSA from Attorney General Tong is very good. Mrs. Jakab noted Police Chief Lombardo will be meeting with the seniors on a regular basis for coffee and discussion. The Center could request AARP join them for a discussion.

Mr. Ryan left the meeting at 2:45 pm.

First Selectman Tesoro spoke on the proposed senior center issue and the survey to be conducted. Also noted they are looking at all the senior tax relief programs. Discussion was held on the funding for the veterans center.

Mr. McGeary left the meeting at 2:49 pm.

Next Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2026.

Adjournment
There being no further business, motion was made by Ms. Rothbard; seconded by Ms. Randall, to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk