Commission on Aging

TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, April 24, 2026
Council Chambers, Trumbull Town Hall
2:00 pm

Present: Chairman Ron Foligno, Kathleen Bordelon, Mark Ryan, Paul McGeary, Debra Gilbert Taylor and Eve Rothbard

Absent: Linda Randall and Evelyn Wiesner

Also Present: Jacqueline Vega, Interim Executive Director, Stern Village and Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Officer

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by Mr. Foligno followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
No public comment.

Guest Speaker
Mr. Foligno introduced Giovanna Mozzo, LMSW as the Police Social Worker. The position was established in 2023 and she has been in the position since December 2025. Ms. Mozzo spoke about her role within the department and her goals. She is not a responder to any emergency calls but, for safety reasons, works by referrals from the patrol officers. Referrals are addressed within 1-2 days of receipt and cover a variety of issues such as welfare checks, caregiver stress, dementia concerns, scams, isolation, falls, loss, hoarding, self-neglect, intox/detox, harassment, missing persons, etc. The role is a link between law enforcement, residents, families and community support resources. Key partners include residents and families, patrol officers, SROs, senior services, youth and family support services and community agencies.

Call data was reviewed for the months she has been in the role. All information is confidential. She noted the new suicide and crisis lifeline number is 988. The Trumbull PD is initiating several programs - Peer Support Committee for the staff and the SAFE Project – Safe Accessible Forensic Interviewing for Elders –

for autistic or developmental disabilities. Jake, the wellness canine, is also a new addition to the department who is there for the officers and the community.

Ms. Mozzo encouraged the Commission to promote the information regarding the 988 crisis number as well as the initiatives within the department that would assist seniors in the community. Contact information is gmozzo@trumbull-ct-gov or 203.452.3845.

Past Minutes

Mr. McGeary motioned to approve the minutes of March 27, 2026; seconded by Ms. Gilbert Taylor. Approved.

Reports

Stern Village – Ms. Vega introduced herself as the Interim Executive Director at Stern following the retirement of Paulette Mack. Her background is with youth and kids in care. She began at Stern as the Property Manager to build on her background with housing. Described Stern as a community of 186 units and a Congregate building with 36 apartments for more frail individuals, still independent living but with services in place. She works with the State, has a close relationship with Social Services and is working to expand their networking partners. She noted currently the wait list for the Congregate is 21 and at Stern it is 82. Ten units are open; six are ready and the other four are undergoing rehab. Stern Village and Congregate both have food pantries and an outside agency comes to the community with food donations. Mr. Foligno offered assistance of the Commission for initiatives that would benefit the residents. Ms. Bordelon noted having the property manager background is very beneficial. Ms. Vega noted she was doing the maintenance aspect of the property but worked to improve her knowledge of the entire facility to better coordinate efforts.

Senior Center Report

Ms. Mogensen provided the following report to the Commission:

1. Community Garden Update
   State Representative Sarah Keitt and Rina Bakalar, Director of Economic & Community Development, secured an ARPA grant for the Town of Trumbull for a Community Garden project. Updates were made to the Community Garden located in Abraham Nichols Park and a Community Garden is currently being constructed at the Trumbull Senior Center. The garden at the senior center will include 10-12 raised garden beds and deer fencing. The beds will be made so that they are easily accessible to seniors and everything aside from the cement slab will be moveable in the event it needs to be relocated for any reason. The Senior Center will be providing programming on gardening, nutrition and cooking to compliment the community gardens. Classes will include collaborations with the Long Hill Garden Club, the UCONN Extension Program and others. Stay tuned for more information.
2. Generations in Art Program
   On Monday, May 18th, students enrolled in the UConn Individual and Family Development class at Trumbull High School will be visiting the senior center. The students will be given a tour and

we will provide them with information about the programs and services that we provide. Students will then host a program for our members called Generations in Art at 10:00 AM. It will be an intergenerational program bringing together students and senior center members. Groups will share stories, choose a prompt and design a small art square using drawings, colors and words. The squares will then be assembled into a collaborative quilt style collage that celebrates connection, creativity, and shared experiences. Registration is required to attend.

3. Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program
   Vouchers will be available again this season for those that meet the qualifying guidelines. The application period will begin on May 1st until September 30th and funding will become active as of June 1st and can be used until November 30th. This season's program benefit is $40.00, which can be used for purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs and honey from local CT grown farm vendors participating in the program. Please contact Social Services @ 203-452-5198 or email at socialservices@trumbull-ct.gov for more information and to apply for benefits. Ms. Bordelon noted this is the State farmers market voucher program.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Foligno noted the following:

1. First Responders/Veterans Building - Veteran meetings will be held at River Valley Living Center until the new center is completed. On May 14, Leonard DiNardo will be presenting a $100,000 check to support the building and the naming of the gathering room. Contract signing is scheduled within the next two weeks that will allow building construction to begin.
2. A blood drive is scheduled at the Trumbull Library on May 1 supported by the American Legion and the VFW.

New Business

1. Mrs. Katske discussed the Homestead Act noting only New Milford currently has this in place; Stratford indicated it was a large amount of work to implement, at least six months. It is not State money but a reduction in the assessed value of real property that is owner occupied. The towns can set a reduction of assessed value between 5% and 35%. It shifts the tax burden from residential real estate to businesses. Mr. Ryan indicated there was a switch in the tax burden in Trumbull from corporations to residential in the last few years. It becomes complicated with rental properties. Mr. McGeary discussed the tax burden and the mill rate for residents. Revaluation was discussed; State mandated every five years. This would be a tax burden on the many small businesses in Town. Real estate tax abatement program is being reviewed along with all senior tax relief programs; volunteer programs are also being reviewed. Budget review was explained. Mrs. Katske noted the Town will continue researching the Act.

Old Business

1. Public Works Subcommittee of the Town Council – Mr. Foligno reviewed the outcome of the meeting with regard to telephone survey questions about the proposed senior center. Initial

questions have been refined and concerns were addressed. This should be a topic at the next Council meeting.

2. COACT Meeting Update – next meeting is coming up; no report.
3. Senior Center Update – no discussion.
4. Website Content Update – Ms. Gilbert Taylor reported on the information gathered for the document noting additional information will be researched. Discussion was held regarding links, placement on the website; organization of topics.
5. Concerns of and Concerns for Senior Citizens – previously discussed.

Next Meeting
Friday, May 22, 2026.

Adjournment
There being no further business, Ms. Gilbert Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 pm; seconded by Ms. Rothbard. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk