

**TOWN OF TRUMBULL
CONNECTICUT**



Commission on Aging Meeting
Friday, December 17, 2021
2:00 pm

The Commission on Aging held a virtual meeting on Friday, December 17, 2021.

Present: Vice-Chairman Ron Foligno, Mark Ryan, Jean DaRold, Evelyn Wiesner (entered at 2:09 pm), Michael Ganino and Alissa Heilbrunn

Also Present: Michele Jakab, Director of Human Services and Cindy Katske, Chief Administrative Assistant (entered at 2:12 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Mr. Foligno followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Past Minutes: Mrs. DaRold noted the minutes should be corrected in the first line to remove the word "virtual" as the meeting was held in person. Motion was made by Mr. Ganino to approve the minutes of November 19, 2021 as corrected. Seconded by Mrs. DaRold and approved with abstention from Mr. Foligno.

Secretary's Report

No report.

Senior Center Director's Report

Mrs. Jakab noted Social Services is busy with distribution of Christmas gifts to the town-sponsored families. Long Hill Fire Department delivered gifts from their toy drive which will be distributed also. Poinsettia deliveries were made to home-bound seniors. Gifts are also going out to home-bound seniors from Trinity Church.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Foligno noted the following:

- a. Thank you to Bill and Barbara who have been so accommodating during this past challenging year with the meetings.
- b. Thank you to Marcy Kelley for her leadership on the Commission. Mr. Foligno read the following statement – With Marcy's retirement, we will be in need of a chairperson. I will continue as vice until a new chairperson can be voted in. I do not want the chair. We need fresh ideas and a different outlook to keep us as viable as possible. We should and must be a positive force for the senior community in all areas. This is why I chose not to be chair. Please give some thought to this. Consider the chair or even the vice chair. A fresh new look from existing members will bring about new ideas and continue the previous effort. Marcy was a breath of fresh air from the past, of which I have been a part of for approximately eight years. Election of a new Chairman will be discussion under New Business.
- c. Update on Community Facility Building Committee (CFBC) – An email dated November 23, 2020, was read from the chair giving an update of the committee activities as follows: My apologies for yet

again another delay in getting this committee up and running. Currently we are looking at town department heads to weigh in on what has changed since we last met and what options the committee will have moving forward. In respect to your time, I would like to have as much of that ground work done before we reconvene so it can be presented to us at our first meeting. Ideally, we will solidify over the next few weeks. Based on your replies, it seems that the first Wednesday of the month would be the best time to meet with the fourth Wednesday as another option. I have put in a request to find us a monthly meeting space large enough to hold our group beginning on Wednesday, January 5. More frequent meeting will more than likely be needed once we, hopefully, get things in motion.

Mrs. Katske entered the meeting at 2:12 pm.

Discussion was held regarding past consideration of potential locations for a Senior Center. It was noted that the location at Church Hill Road and Quality Street is no longer a consideration as the properties are being sold. The Board of Education building on Main Street requires renovation and relocation of BOE personnel with possible relocation of athletic fields behind the building. Property by the Library had been considered by the CFBC but it is not feasible at this time.

2022 Meeting Dates

The 2022 schedule of meetings was reviewed. After discussion, motion was made by Mrs. Wiesner that all future meetings on Friday be held at 2:00 pm whether it is by ZOOM or in person. Seconded by Mrs. DaRold and approved unanimously. Location of meetings was tabled for a future date given the current circumstances.

Topics of Interest or Concern from Members

- a. Mr. Ganino noted he had attended some presentations regarding the Build Back Better and Infrastructure bills. It was his understanding that funds were allocated to towns and cities. As a Commissioner, he was interested in the process to request money for the Senior Center. Mrs. Katske was unaware of this potential funding. There is money from the American Rescue Plan that the town has received for this year and for next year that has very specific parameters for use. Any recommendations should be given to Mrs. Jakab who is involved in the discussions on how these funds should be used. Mrs. Jakab noted she has already recommended ADA compliance updates, outdoor space for activities and other potential uses.
- b. Discussion was held regarding the updating of the current Senior Center in lieu of new construction. A plan had been brought forward with regard to the Center that would increase parking in the rear of the building with additional space in the building. This option has been dismissed due to the age of the building and its location in a residential area.
- c. Additional space was suggested in the area to the side of the building for parking.
- d. Potential table at voting locations to be set up to garner food stuffs for the food pantry. This is a possibility but would require coordination.
- e. Live Free holds a gathering at Indian Ledge that may be an opportunity to set up a table to hand out information on the Center.
- f. Trips were taken between Stern Village and polls on election day. Many riders were not aware of the opportunities available at the Senior Center such as the lunches and seminars.
- g. Distribution of the Senior Center newsletter at Stern Village was discussed. Mrs. Jakab noted the newsletter is brought to Stern Village, senior housing and assisted living facilities in town for distribution but it is not brought to individual residents in those facilities. She also noted that some of the Stern Village residents come in for programs as well as trips and transportation opportunities.
- h. Discussion was held regarding ways to encourage seniors to attend the lunches offered at the Center. It was suggested at a previous meeting to have speakers provide presentations on pertinent topics. Mrs. Jakab noted that she is working on inviting the Administration to attend a lunch sometime in February. Mr. Ganino also suggested presentations from other commissions or departments such as the Board of Health and Parks and Recreation.
- i. Mr. Ryan noted that he contacted the Police Department and Officer Pysz regarding a presentation on topics that would be of interest to seniors, including crime in Trumbull and internet scams. Chief

Lombardo agreed to the presentations by his staff. The initial presentation has been set for January but can be done at any time when the Commission meets in person.

Old Business

1. Mrs. DaRold noted she has contacted the Parks and Recreation Department regarding the arts display at Town Hall. Mrs. Jakab will send a message to the instructors to let them know the town has interest in doing this next year. Specifics will be determined soon.
2. Mr. Ganino noted he brought up at the last meeting the possibility of a mural at the Center. This would be done through a grant. The application deadline was December 2 but there is another application period next year. Mrs. Jakab has an instructor who is willing to work on this project. It has been suggested the mural be put on canvas so that it is moveable.

New Business

1. Mr. Ryan discussed the possibility of the Commission having a Sunshine fund in the event someone is injured or passes away. In the past, this was available. Discussion was held and Mrs. Katske explained the budget process and how the Commission would need to go through this process to request funding. Budget meetings have not been set at this time.
2. Election of Officers –
 - a. Mrs. DaRold nominated Michael Ganino as Chairman. Mr. Ganino accepted the nomination. All Commission members approved this appointment by unanimous consent.
 - b. Mrs. Wiesner nominated Jean DaRold as Vice-Chair. Mrs. DaRold declined the nomination.
 - c. Mr. Ryan nominated Ron Foligno as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mrs. Wiesner. All Commission members approved this appointment by unanimous consent.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Mr. Ganino to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Wiesner and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk