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STRATFORD TOWN CLERK

Commission on Aging Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
10:02 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Attendance: Bernice Bova, Dale McClanan, Diane Puterski, George Hangos, Gus Csuka, Kathy Faggella, Patricia Shaham & Maryann Seminatore. Guests: Mayor John Harkins & CAO Chris Tymniak.

Excused: Carl Glad, Geraldine Gemza, Linda Fernandes-Johnson

Call to Order: 10:02 a.m.

Minutes: December minutes approved; January minutes approved

Updates:

- Director Puterski spoke the status of various grants for the Baldwin Center – the Municipal Grant money comes from the State and that there is a formula they use to divide the money between various municipalities; the Area Agency grant is also issued at the state level and they are hoping to hear a response with in the next 3 weeks.
- Director Puterski will be reviewing the need for the family caregiver grant – there might be a need for a different type of program at the Baldwin Center.
- Bernice Bova asked what programs have been held with the Family Caregiver Grant – Director Puterski responded that they have held stress management, communication and other various programs.
- Bernice Bova suggested they should advertise with businesses and also mentioned there might be a different target audience they are missing – Director Puterski mentioned this was done in the past but it has become more difficult.
- Director Puterski spoke about a Friendly Visiting Program – she mentioned that it is increasingly more difficult to follow-up with people – they could have some visit people once a month to "check in" and make sure everything is okay. Bernice Bova, Dale McClanan & Patricia Shaham all like the idea of this program and Director Puterski will research the program more.
- Director Puterski asked the Commission to provide input with the Family Caregiver Grant – Chairman Faggella asked how the attendance has been and Director Puterski mentioned that is has been low and that there are other programs out there which would be more cost effective – she also asked the Commission to let her know of any other ideas.
- Director Puterski spoke about the Nutrition Program – they have returned to the old program and there have not been many complaints. Gus Csuka mentioned that people were concerned about coffee being provided but that the donations have been going well and that on some days there is leftover food for those who would like a second serving. Director Puterski mentioned that they are looking at other options for those who do not sign up for the meal program in advance, similar to what the Milford Senior Center does. Chris Tymniak asked what the cost was for the other program & Director Puterski stated it was around $7/$8.
- Mayor Harkins asked what the cost of the coffee was per year – Director Puterski mentioned that she will be looking to this but they usually purchase the coffee at B.J.'s since it is the most cost effective. The center also receives donations of coffee from local shops like Donut Crazy. Patricia Shaham asked if it would be cheaper to purchase at Restaurant Depot and Director Puterski mentioned that B.J.'s was the best option because of its convenience and it is cheaper.
- Bernice Bova asked where all of the paper goods come from and Director Puterski mentioned they purchase everything at Hudson Paper.
- Dale McClanan asked if they have received any complaints since they have reverted to the old program – Director Puterski mentioned that she has sampled some of the meals and they are not bad – Gus Csuka stated that not a lot has changed but the quantity of the meal is smaller and some meals are great while others are not.

- Director Puterski mentioned that CW Resources will be going to bid on the grant but she will be talking to Sodexho and mentioned they can bid on just a certain area – Chris Tymniak mentioned that Fairfield has a cost of only $3 and that he would help with the RFP.
- Mayor Harkins asked what the Baldwin Center had as a priority for the FY2017 Budget – Director Puterski stated that they are moving forward with the sound system and that it should be done by the end of April 2016 & the new vehicle is in the process of being ordered, Director Puterski has a meeting with the State at the end of March – She also asked if the Outreach Coordinator could become a town position, Mayor Harkins asked about the total cost & Director Puterski estimated it at $25K-$30K.
- Director Puterski spoke about the Wellness Park – they are hoping for ground breaking in spring 2016 & Michael Cohen will begin to develop phase 2 of the planning – she would also like to provide the bocce court with more shading.
- Director Puterski mentioned that she looking into the possibility of having a "sub-office" in the North End or in the South End Community Center – Bernice Bova mentioned they could make room at Birdseye one day a week & Director Puterski mentioned that in the past that location was not successful – Mayor Harkins suggested asking local places of worship and Director Puterski mentioned she would look into this option.
- Chairman Faggella stated that Maryanne Seminatore handed in her letter of resignation
- Director Puterski asked if the Commission was going to enforce the by-law about missing 3 consecutive meetings
- Chairman Faggella stated that they still needed a member of the clergy – Bernice Bova asked if the position could be "rotating" like the Health Department – Director Puterski will be reaching out to local clergy.
- Dale McClanan made a motion to accept the by-laws – Chairman Faggella seconded the motion
- Director Puterski spoke about the registration money and how it is being used – they are putting money towards special events, the coffee shop and other miscellaneous expenses.
- Patricia Shaham asked if the van they are replacing will be for sale – Director Puterski stated that the vehicle will go back to Public Works and that they hold an auction.
- Chairman Faggella asked if the vans can take people to appointments and Director Puterski mentioned that yes they can but they need more drivers to be able to do this & that she will be talking to Ron Ing in Human Resources about the position. Dale McClanan asked if the position was volunteer and Director Puterski stated that it was a paid part-time position.
- **Motion to adjourn by Chairman Kathy Faggella and seconded by Dale McClanan.**

Meeting concluded at 11:05 a.m.

Next Meeting – April 12, 2016

Respectfully submitted by,

Catherine Hausmann