

Commission for Senior Services

Minutes of December 18, 2015

Present:

Bob Fatherley, Jo Fuchs-Luscombe, Ms. Leslie A. Wolf; Mr. Les L. Wolf; Peter Kolbrener; Janet Filling; Teri Klein; Mike Stashower

Excused: Judy Guthman; Sharon Rosen, and Howard Maynard .

Staff: First Selectman, Jim Marpe; Susan Pfister; Sarah Heath.

Guests: Gloria Stashower.

Minutes:

The minutes of October 15, 2015 were approved. (M. Stashower/Klein)

- M. Stashower expressed his appreciation and honor for having served as chair of the CSS and recognized the commitment and hard work from all committee members and wished the group well as they take on new challenges and particularly as they work to support the enhancement of the Center. He then read a bio of Bob Fatherley who was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (Leslie Wolf /J. Fuchs-Luscombe) to serve as Chair, effective immediately. Bob graciously accepted his new role and proceeded to introduce the other newly appointed CSS members – Ms. Leslie Wolf; Mr. Leslie Wolf; Peter Kolbrener. Each member shared their backgrounds with the audience.
- First Selectman, Jim Marpe expressed his condolences with the passing of Sue Lebrija and acknowledged her dedication to serving citizens of Westport and the room respectfully held a moment of silence. Jim then read a beautiful proclamation recognizing Mike, Sharon, Howard and Teri and thanked them for their years of service as CSS members and wishing them well as they move on.
- S. Pfister reported that each committee has submitted a report of their findings and the next step is to put the research into a report. Plans are moving forward for a Meet and Greet whereby key players in the community will be invited by the First Selectman to come to visit the Center (most likely on a Sunday afternoon) and familiarize themselves with the doings at the Center. It was noted that there are a lot of new directors of various agencies and organizations in town and it is important to get them current with the happenings at the Center. The Enhancement Committee will report its findings to the BOS and then the project will move forward with support and/or approval from the PPB, CSS, HSC, BOF, P&Z, RTM, etc. The next full committee report will meet in mid-January, 2016.
- S. Heath and S. Pfister have had preliminary discussions with DHS Director, Barbara Butler with regards to the budget for FY 2016-17. A meeting with the Controller and First Selectman was

held last week with no surprises. S. Pfister was concerned about where the funds were going to come for her request for cameras as recommended by the WPD and was told that the money would be in the general budget as one line item which will address all of the departments who have similar concerns. The funds (approximately \$40 – 60,000) most likely needed for an RFP to go out for Design and Schematic renderings will most likely come from the Capital Budget.

- S. Heath was extremely pleased with the generosity and the community collaboration demonstrated with the “Santa” event held at the WCSA earlier this week. Twenty families were the recipients of gifts generously donated by Saugatuck Financial in town in collaboration with the Westport Uniform Firefighters Association. The event touch many lives and we’re all hoping we can repeat this event in the same manner next year.
- The P&Z Commission met last night to continue their discussion on Dedication Open Space Recreation District 2 (DOSRD). S. Pfister will continue to monitor this discussion and its impact on the enhancement of the Center. There was no vote taken at the meeting and the agenda item was carried over to February 4, 2016. The current reading of the text states that the Center can expand its footprint up to 50% of the building’s footprint.
- Fuel assistance is about the same as last year in terms of the number of clients who have been served. Things are a lot less stressful this year due to timely payments and the lower cost of oil. A final report will be shared once the program wraps up for the season.
- The DHS Holiday Program was extremely successful this year thanks to the generosity of the community, PTA’s, religious institutions and local businesses. Parents are most grateful and appreciative of the department’s efforts. Toquet Hall was thanked for sharing their space.
- Chairman, Bob Fatherley then discussed his desired agenda for the next CSS meeting which will be held on Friday, January 15, 2016. He asked each member to give thought to the Commission’s purpose, mission, goals and objectives for the upcoming year so that they can have a better understanding of what they’re trying to accomplish. All members thought that was a great idea and would be a meaningful exercise.

Meeting adjourned (Les L. Wolf/Fuchs-Luscombe).