

## Commission for Senior Services

### Regular Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2024

**Attendance:** Sarah Adair, Claudia Coplen, Teri Klein, Diana (Wendy) Kleros,

**Staff:** Wendy Petty, Kristen Witt, Holly Betts

**Absent:** Doris Levinson, Merle Spiegel, Elaine Daignault

**Guest:** Harris Falk

Commission Co-Chair Claudia Copland called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, and the minutes from the December 18th meeting were approved.

Wendy K. mentioned the Westport Community Theater is having a performance on Thursday night Feb 15th which is free to the public.

- Wendy Petty, Senior Center Director:  
Reported Spring registration will be coming out soon. The new logo has been made official. She will send a picture to commission members.  
Continued progress on new website.  
Since January there have been 43 new registered members. On Mondays and Wednesdays, the parking lot fills up in the afternoon, so to make accommodation, some class timings have been adjusted to allow time for space to open. Lunches have been very busy, so requesting members make lunch reservations 48 hrs. in advance.  
Discussed a voter registration non-partisan event sponsored by the CSS to answer frequently asked questions regarding absentee ballots, early voting etc. Claudia will speak to the Registrar of Voters staff to provide a date.  
Looking for an additional bid on the pollinator pathway to use as an outdoor classroom.
- Holly Betts, Senior Center Assistant Director:  
Spring Calendar will be out soon featuring 88 courses. Postponing Tea event scheduled for tomorrow due to impending snowstorm. Will reschedule for Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. 50-60 participants are expected.  
Looking for volunteers as the NCL have conflicts with change of date.  
Working to build the writing program back up since COVID. Jill Amodio, ghost writer has been teaching a small group.  
Storytelling Day, March 20<sup>th</sup> led by Diane Lowman and Josh Borkowski is a pilot program with hopes of continuing. Park & Rec has agreed to let CSA use the pool for Aquasize class beginning in June on T/Th.

- Kristen Witt, LCSW Municipal Agent for Seniors/Senior Social Worker: Nothing new to report. Answered question regarding EA awards and supplementing with WWU. Explained Eversource's LIDR (Low Income Discount Rate) and how it is applied to qualified residents.

Commissioner reports:

- Claudia Coplen, Housing, reported there have been no meetings.
- Harris Falk, updated on the housing fund. Mentioned the RTM determines the fee. An example was provided for a renovation – for every \$1000.00 spent, the resident would pay ½% to the town to go into the fund.
- Wendy K, Transportation, there have been no meetings to report on. Wendy P. mentioned CSA will have a button on their new website to provide information on Door-to-Door transportation. Wendy K. stated age is the qualifying priority for application acceptance.
- Terri Klein, Human Services Commission, no meeting to report on.
- Sarah Adair, Tree Board, Arbor Day scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> in the back of Town Hall. 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectwoman Andrea Moore will be attending. Will be publicized in the hopes of attracting a larger turn out than years past. Website is being updated. Looking for appropriate quotes to add to the site monthly. Ben, Tree Warden goes to a local school to speak to the students and plants a sapling on the school property.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

The next meeting will be held on March 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Kristen Witt on behalf of Merle Spiegel.