

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present Committee Members were: Councilors Seldon, Neuwirth and Washington

Also present were: Camilla Jones, Director of Social & Youth Services, , David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services, Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services, Jane Low, Chair of Beautification Committee, Marie MacDonald, Chair of CEEC and Philip K. Schenck, Jr. Town Manager

Absent was: India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Seldon, seconded by M. MacDonald and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 2, 2014.

It was moved by M. MacDonald, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 2, 2014.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Senior Services

Mrs. Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services reported the following updates of the department:

- On April 2, 2015, the new Mini-Bus was delivered and will registered for operation in the current fleet. This a hybrid, energy efficient vehicle. There was a proposal submitted for two additional buses in the Capital Improvement budget for FY 2015/2016. Town Council members will be able to see the mini bus at the next scheduled Council meeting.
- On April 8, 2015 – Medications Review will be provided by pharmacy students from the University of Saint Joseph.
- On April 13, 2015 – Annual Volunteer Reception will be held for volunteers who donate their time for various activities sponsored by the Senior Center.

- On May 4, 2015 – Annual Mother’s Day Celebration will be held for seniors with free manicures provided by A.I. Prince Tech students, volunteer massage therapists and lunch at the Simsbury Inn.
- On May 21, 2015 – Casual Prom with University High School
- On May 28, 2015 – Simply Swing Concert will be held on the lawn at 330 Park Avenue
- On May 29, 2015 – an American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the Senior Center
- On June 3, 2015 – Celebrity Bingo will be held at the Senior Center
- On June 3, 2015 – a Paint Night Party will be sponsored by the Senior Center, Social & Youth Services and Leisure Services
- On June 17, 2015 – Annual Exhibition of “Senior” Artists
- On June 19, 2015 – Annual Father’s Day Breakfast with the Town Manager, Philip K. Schenck, Jr.

Social & Youth Services

Mrs. Camilla Jones, Director of Social & Youth Services reported the following updates of the department:

- There is a collaboration with Habitat for Humanity – ReStor for storage units abandoned during evictions. In addition, Habitat for Humanity developed a program entitled a Brush of Kindness/Home Repairs, to improve the living conditions of low to moderate income homeowners so that they may have a safe, decent place to live.
- Energy Assistance – Mr. David Hager, First Congregational Church and the Prosser Fund are looking to develop a program to assist seniors with Home Energy audits.
- Foodshare Commodity Distribution Program will begin in June at Rehoboth Church of God.
- Renter’s Rebate Program application period is April 1st – October 1st.
- State of Connecticut Hoarding Taskforce will host a conference on May 4, 2015 at Central Connecticut State University.
- The department has requested \$12,000 to continue the Juvenile Revenue Board and Police & Youth programs.

- The State of Connecticut – Department of Education may not fund \$22,180 for town Youth Services programs. Mrs. Pat Maneggia solicited letters from students, youth groups, parents and community organizations to advocate for funding to be sustained.
- The Postal Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. at Social & Youth Services, 330 Park Avenue.

Leisure Services - Parks and Recreation

Mr. David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services reported the following updates of the department:

- After School Program actively have 120 children enrolled.
- Saturday Program activities will official close mid-April. The indoor season was fairly successful, the basketball and soccer programs for toddlers and youth were most popular.
- There are approximately 151 kids registered for the Youth Center Memberships.
- Leisure Services recently hired two Activity Specialists (Shubasz Gordon and Abraham Ford, Jr.) for the After School program.
- Pool – Arrangements are being made to prepare for the summer season, including building maintenance, inventory of supplies, etc. Bloomfield High School students in need of civic community service hours assist with these preparations.
- Summer Concert Series – There will be 10 concerts this season. All performers have been confirmed for participation. Seabury Retirement Community and Windsor Federal Savings Bank are the two lead sponsors for this series.
- Park Facilities – Field maintenance and equipment are currently being installed to kick-off the Spring and Summer seasons. The Reservoir #3 Community Garden is scheduled to be plowed by the end of April. The Lisa Lane Community Garden project is scheduled to begin their build on Saturday, April 11, 2015. The cost is \$15.00 per plot, which consist of two 4x20 raised beds. In addition, the town was awarded the 2015 Connecticut Department of Agriculture Viability Grant for the Lisa Lane Farm. This grant will have matching funds for a total project cost of \$100,000. Moreover, this grant will allow for a 2 inch water supply line, new roof, upgrade the electricity to the farmhouse and install a new greenhouse.
- Public Works and Leisure Services met with Mr. Mark Mansur, Superintendent of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course to discuss a turf management plan for the town, specifically for the 330 Park Avenue fields. The plan is to double aerate and maintain the fields. In addition, Mr. Melesko is developing a long term plan for aeration in the fields.

- Little League baseball is currently taking registrations for this season. However, enrollment has decreased over the past several years.
- BGSA is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks for practice and official games.
- Mr. Melesko attended the meeting of the Bloomfield Raiders and was introduced to their new board members.
- Leisure Services are still actively taking sponsors for the Summer Concert series. In addition, several sponsors have been contacted for the Memorial Day Road Race. The portable stage has been ordered and scheduled to arrive the first week in May.
- A meeting was held with Dale Bartoldi to discuss the LaSalette Technical Assistance Preservation Grant. This grant will be used to develop a small Master Plan of the property. The town is still waiting the Environmental Review Team (ERT) report on potential uses of the farm.
- The CAIS/CAMS Journey Program will host a school dance on Friday, April 17, 2015. The proceeds of this dance will be donated to the Beautification Committee. This program is a collaboration with Leisure Services, Social & Youth Services and the Bloomfield Board of Education.
- The Summer Program brochure has been completed for distribution to the community. Celebrate Bloomfield and the Summer Concert series information has been included.

Councilor Neuwirth gave a brief update on Celebrate Bloomfield, week of May 30th – June 6th, 2015.

Beautification Committee

Mrs. Jane Low, Chair of the Beautification Committee reported that the memorials for the Town Green will be planted on April 18, 2015. There will be student volunteers from the Bloomfield High School Agri-Science program that will assist with planting. In addition, there are other resident volunteers new to the town that would like to contribute their time.

The main planting will begin during the first weekend of June.

There have been several inquiries regarding landscaping of the new sign located on Cottage Grove Road and Blue Hills Avenue. Ms. Low met with Director of Leisure Services and the Public Works Department to discuss possible irrigation systems. Mr. John Lawlor, Director of Public Works is working with Green Machine for a cost estimate for the recommended solar irrigation system. There was discussion regarding donations or possible budgetary item for the upcoming budget to assist with cost for this project.

Home Depot is willing to donate plants for this sign once a decision has been made regarding landscaping and maintenance of the site. There are several other visitors that would like to participate in other planting activities in town.

Ms. Marie MacDonald indicated that CEEC won a \$10,000 Bright Ideas Grant and may be interested in utilizing these funds to assist with the installation of the solar irrigation system.

Clean Energy and Conservation Committee (CEEC)

Ms. Marie MacDonald, Chair of the CEEC reported the following updates:

- In reference to the bike walk and paths for the town, David Melesko will be in charge of this project.
- Home Energy Solutions and the Prosser Fund are willing to assist seniors who cannot afford to pay the fee for an energy audit of their residence. Mr. David Hager have agreed to be in charge of this project. There is a confidentiality issue in identifying these individuals. Mr. Hager met with Mrs. Camilla Jones, Director of Social & Youth Services and Eversource to determine the best way of identifying those in need. Only 20% of homes in Bloomfield have received these audits.
- Eversource recently sent a postcard to all condo owners for HES audits.
- The current HES vendors are also interested in servicing small businesses.
- The EE Smarts Program (energy efficiency and conservation) is supported by Bloomfield Public Schools. There are efforts being made to integrate this program into the Science curriculum for all students Pre-K through 12. Bloomfield High School will benefit from a free solar panel by CEEC.
- CEEC will earn additional solar panels as the Solarize Bloomfield installations are completed.
- CEEC will continue to support the town recycling program of all batteries, old prescriptions and clothing.
- CEEC is exploring several ideas on the best and proper use for the second Bright Idea Grant of \$10,000. Ideas must educational and energy efficiency or conservation, not renewable.
- CEEC welcome Mr. David Hager and Ms. Vanessa Spence as the newest members of this commission. Mr. David Hager, member of First Congregational Church presented a film regarding “fracking” the process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks, boreholes, etc., so as to force open existing fissures and extract oil or gas.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.