

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 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, Philip K. Schenck, Jr. Town Manager and 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 Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 7, 2015.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Senior Services

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

- On June 17, 2015 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., the 17th Annual Exhibition of Senior Artists Reception will be held at Town Hall.
- On June 19, 2015, the Annual Father's Day Breakfast will be held at the Senior Center. Mayor Sydney Schulman will be the guest speaker.
- On June 22, 2015, a Foot Care Clinic will take place at the Senior Center. This clinic has been designed for those with diabetes to address proper foot care.

- On June 23, 2015, “Paula’s Party Nutrition Program will focus on topics of discussion for gluten and grains.
- On July 1, 2015 the Senior Center has dedicated this as Mini-Bus Appreciation Day.
- On July 21, 2015, there will be a workshop from the CT Office of Consumer Counsel on “Know Your Rights: Shopping for Electricity Prices”.
- On August 4, 2015, a program is scheduled on “Empowerment Made Easy” – learn about living wills and health care directives, health care representatives, the differences between powers of attorney and conservatorships.
- On August 18, 2015, there will be a program with the CT Office of Victim Advocate program focusing on identity theft, elder abuse, financial fraud, and other issues (postponed from an earlier date)
- Also, on August 18, 2015, another Paint Night Party will be held on the Town Green.
- On September 16, 2015 the Annual Quilting & Crafters Reception will be held
- On September 29, 2015 will be the 8th Annual Senior Expo at the Senior Center.

Social & Youth Services

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

- The Postal Food Drive was held on May 9, 2015. Approximately 8100 lbs. of non-perishable food items were collected.
- The Renter Rebate application period is April 1, 2015 – October 1, 2015. Contact Social & Youth Services at 860-242-1895 for an appointment.
- The Foodshare Commodity Program is currently accepting applications at Rehoboth Church of God. This program will provide a 26 lb. box and 2 lb. block of cheese to all income eligible seniors 60 and over.
- The Interfaith Emergency Response Team met last Monday, June 1, 2015. This is a group of volunteers who are being trained to respond to emergencies in town.

- The Bloomfield Republican Town Committee donated a portion of proceeds for the Bloomfield Food Bank from their Annual Lincoln dinner.
- The Youth Services Division will host two summer programs: Peer Power Plus/Camp Proteen.
- Habitat for Humanity is currently accepting applications for their “Brush with Kindness Program”. There is no fee for disabled veterans and seniors. The program will make necessary repairs up to \$2500.00.

Leisure Services - Parks and Recreation

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

- The After School Program ended on June 12, 2015, with approximately 120 kids in attendance on a regular basis throughout the school year. This program will continue to be provided for you in the 7th and 8th grades for the next two school years (FY15/16 and FY16/17).
- Summer staff was hired in May and will begin training shortly. They all participated and attended Camp College on Saturday, June 6, 2015.
- The Memorial Day Parade and 5K run was held on Monday, May 25, 2015. The race had approximately 95 racers and over 38 units participated in the parade. Lieutenant Felder of West Hartford, CT was the keynote speaker for this event.
- The Summer Program brochure and Summer Concert series have been mailed out to all town residents.
- The pre-season preparation for the pool will be completed this week. The pool will be open for 2 weeks beginning June 17, 2015 with seasonal hours and regular hours beginning on June 29, 2015.
- The Public Works department and the Wintonbury Hills Golf Course are working in collaboration to address special attention needed for soccer fields. Public Works will obtain an aeration machine from the golf course for water filtration of fields.

- The Lisa Lane Project sold out of their 15 raised garden bed plots. All materials are biodegradable (“waddles”). Blue Hills Fire Department will supply water in rain barrels to this location once a week. Over the past few years, supporters of this site include:
 - Blue Hills Fire District
 - Wintonbury Land Trust
 - Bloomfield High School - Agri-Science Program
- The Town was awarded the Agricultural Viability Grant for farm upgrades to include:
 - Installation of a 2-Inch Water Service from MDC Main at the West Side of Packard Street
 - Electricity Service providing 400-Amp, 3-Phase Service to Operations Building, replacement of the existing greenhouse with a 30 ft. X 72 ft. gable greenhouse with polycarbonate skin including fans
 - Operations building removing two attached sheds and roof replacement (11.2 Squares, 30-Yr Shingles), sheathing and gutters
- The Bloomfield Public School will participate in the Summer Food Program.
- Camp Discounts are provided to youth participants in collaboration Bloomfield Social & Youth Services summer camp.
- There was a BATV interview with Bloomfield Today on “Celebrate Bloomfield”.
- Mr. Melesko stated that he has been working with CREC – Nature Center regarding upgrades to the Farmington River Park (building/waterpark).
- The Request for Proposal for community parks way finding signs is underway. This study was designed to evaluate current signage program parks.
- The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce had their 2nd Annual Grub Crawl on May 30, 2015. Leisure Services provided portable toilets, sound, tables and chairs for this event.
- Celebrate Bloomfield Week was very successful. Leisure Services assisted the committee with various aspects of advertisement and in-kind donations.
- The Summer concert series began on Thursday, June 4, 2015 with Bloomfield High School and University of Hartford choirs.
- The portable stage was ordered and will be delivered next week.

Beautification Committee

Mrs. Jane Low, Chair of the Beautification Committee thanked Councilor Neuwirth for his coordination of events for Celebrate Bloomfield. She also reported that the entrance sign on Blue Hills Avenue and Cottage Grove Road will be landscaped and maintained by the Green Machine. There is no irrigation on the current site, it will be brought in by the Green Machine.

Home Depot expressed interest in a Community Services project in town. It was recommended that the Human Services sign located at 330 Park Avenue is in need of landscaping.

Leisure Services in conjunction with Social & Youth Services utilized funds to buy planters for in front of the Human Services building.

The war memorials were planted on Town Green on May 18, 2015. The committee received assistance from the Agri-Science students at Bloomfield High School and Public Works staff.

On June 6, 2015, the committee had their Annual Planting Day. Ms. Low stated that this year was the best organized team thus far. There were group from Rehoboth Church of God, Community Solutions, GEMS students and new members from ABC (Alliance for Bloomfield Children) participated in this event.

Ms. Low has been communicating with Lowe's regarding possible donations of plants at the end of summer/fall.

Clean Energy and Conservation Committee (CEEC)

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

- CEEC has been working on creating a recycling flyer for residents. This flyer will include various ways on how to recycling products and waste.
- Victory Energy Solutions and Paquette Electric are working in collaboration to develop energy audit benefits for small businesses. These vendors would like town endorsement and CEEC will work with them on how the town would benefit from services.
- The EE Smarts Program is free to town schools. Bloomfield Public Schools is willing to incorporate this program into the school science curriculum.
- The 2nd Bright Ideas Grant was received from Eversource. The committee has decided to install LED lighting in Town Hall.

- It was noted that there is one vacancy on CEEC. If anyone is interested, please inquire with the committee on their regularly scheduled meeting dates.
- The Public Works Department has agreed to install turtle crossing signs in various areas of town. It was noted that no signs can be installed on state roads.
- The Tennessee Natural Gas Pipeline is controlled by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to upgrade for natural gas options in limited access areas. There was brief discussion regarding the installation of pipelines in Bloomfield.
- The Home Energy Solutions is still accepting referrals for energy audits within town. The Prosser Fund has agreed to assist with audit fees for elderly individuals 60 and over.
- The Office of Consumer Council will host an energy seminar for seniors to answer questions regarding flyers, phone calls and various energy suppliers.
- The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Partnership developed a video/mini movie entitled “Waterworks – Clean Water” project, which aired at CPTV. The 2nd half of this project on waste water will air in the Fall 2015.
- Ms. MacDonald informed the committee that Mid State Battery is located at 139-C West Dudley Town Road, Bloomfield, CT. This company will accept various types of batteries for recycling.

Back to School Fun Fair

Ms. Donna Banks gave a brief update on plans for this year’s Back to School Fun Fair. The fair will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

A food truck will be stationed to provide refreshments and have agreed to donate 50% of their proceeds to the Back to School Fun Fair.

Ms. Banks also confirmed several entertainment acts and approximately 20 vendors have signed up to participate thus far.

In addition, approximately 320 book bags were leftover from last year’s event. The committee agreed with Ms. Banks to order an additional 150 book bags.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.