BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a special meeting for the above referenced subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2021 via Zoom meeting.

Present were: Councilor Danielle Wong, Chair, Mayor Suzette DeBeatham, Councilor C.F. Politis (in at 6:30 p.m.) and Stephanie Calhoun

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Interim Town Manager, Camilla Hillian, Director of Social & Youth Services, David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services, Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Sharon Mann, Bloomfield Beautification Committee, Chair, Marianne Horn, Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee, Chair, Gail Nolan, ABC Coordinator and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Report from Town Staff and Committee Chairs

Social & Youth Services

Mrs. Camilla Hillian, Director of Social and Youth Services provided a status report of Social & Youth Services programs and services.

Social Services Programming

Unite CT – Rental and Utility Assistance Program

The Unite CT Program will provide rental and electricity payment assistance to qualified Connecticut households financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The intention of Unite CT is to help stabilize Connecticut’s Rental Housing Market.

Homeowner Assistance Fund will be announce soon by the Biden-Harris Administration.

Pandemic SNAP Benefits – avail to households with children who receive free or reduced lunch in school or any other DSS services.

Energy Assistance is still available. Interested individuals can contact Social & Youth Services at 860-242-1895.

Renter’s Rebate Program began on April 1, 2021. Applicants can continue Social & Youth Services for more information.

Youth Services Programming

The department has been creative in reinventing programs that we provide with some virtual and small group activities such as:

- Police and Youth Group
- CAMS After School Virtual Program
(This program provides enrichment, leadership, mental health support services and parent workshops)
- 13 youth enrolled
- Parent Support Information Sessions – July 1st – August 13th
- Life skills – Co-Ed (Job seeking, financial budgeting, cooking, car/home maintenance)
- Summer Youth Employment Program – Grant approved for FY 2021, this grant will provide summer jobs to 22 youth ages 15-17 in collaboration with Capital Workforce Partners.

Leisure Services

Mr. David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services provided a status report of Leisure Services programs and services.

- After School Programs
- Celebrate Bloomfield – June 24th – June 27th (Mayor’s 3rd Annual Ball at the Wintonbury Hills Golf Course)
- Summer Hire Interviews and Camp Programs are underway!
- Futsal Program – great attendance in this program
- 85 Membership scans for the Youth Gym
- Pickleball – 60 registrants
- Adult Basketball – 17 registrants
- Aquatic and Camp Programs (COVID-19 protocols)
- Environmental Series – 1st Wednesday monthly – over 100 registrants in attendance
- Guided Mother’s Day Walk with the Beautification Committee
- Trees for Bloomfield Initiative
- Memorial Day Parade – no race, modified event
- Family Events (Tie Dye, Bingo, Game Night, Paint Night
- Adult Exercising – Yoga (De-Stress)
- Gardening Programs
- Health & Wealth Series – new for the upcoming 2021 Fall Season (Membership based)
- Tennis
- Municipal Pool will be open this summer! Awaiting more guidelines from the State Department of Public Health
- Summer Concert Series will run every Thursday starting on June 24th – Sept. 2
- Juneteenth – Saturday, June 19, 2021, the unveiling of the MLK Mural

Senior Services

Mrs. Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services provided a status report of Senior Services programs and services.

- Vaccination clinics – 5 offered per week (part time staff was hired to assist with call volume)
- Distributed 3,021 face masks to residents
- Partnership with Stop and Shop for pastries
- Addressing senior loneliness and isolation
- Fitness Activities
- Bingo
- Aging Mastery Program – 75 home kits were distributed
- AARP Tax Program

Discussion
Councilor Calhoun asked if the playfields are open at 330 Park. She also inquired about any structured computer classes for seniors and youth. It was noted that there are 12 PC’s in the Computer Lab located at 330 Park Avenue available for programming.

CEEC
Mrs. Marianne “Charlie” Horn is the Chair of the Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee”. Mrs. Horn stated that the CEEC engages in a wide variety of projects and education initiatives aimed at improving and conserving the environmental quality of life.

The Committee is in the process of prioritizing projects and reviewing the following initiatives:
(See attached project report)
- Climate Crisis (reduce greenhouse gas emissions)
- Climate Change Resolution – Town Council
- Environmental Justice
- Solar panels on Municipal Buildings
- Electric School Bus – DATTACO Grant Application, educational programs and charging stations
- Clean Energy technology with the Library Building Project
- Shred Day – October 2021
- Educational programs related to Clean Energy and Energy Transition

Beautification Committee
Mrs. Sharon Mann, Chair of the Bloomfield Beautification Committee reported that 160 individuals registered and attended the virtual lecture for Environmental Series.

All planters at town buildings and town owned property have been planted.

The Committee was awarded two mini grants from the Hartford Audubon Society for the Farmington River Park and CT Urban Forest Council for Trees on Rockwell Avenue.

In collaboration with CEEC, the “Trees for Bloomfield” initiative. Mrs. Mann thanked the Bloomfield Messenger and Mr. Melesko for their respective marketing platforms to promote this initiative.

In celebration of Earth Day, a guided Mother’s Day walk sponsored by the Wintonbury Land Trust and the Beautification Committee in the Hawk Hill area.

On April 30, 2021, in celebration of Arbor Day, the Trees for Bloomfield initiative will plant trees on Rockwell Avenue.
Family Resource Center (FRC)

Mrs. Gail Nolan, Director of the Family Resource Center gave a brief status report of FRC activities.

The Family Resource Center received a grant for the Diaper Bank. In collaboration with Social & Youth Services, the FRC will provide diapers to individuals in need.

The FRC have hosted the following programs to residents, providers and the community:
- Home Daycare Provider Group
- Mommy & Me Playgroup
- CT Shares Program is designed for online support with Pre-K students
- 2 Conference Workshops on COVID-19 Recovery
- Sacred Heart Diaper Drive
- School Readiness Program Grant
- ABC hosted a Virtual Town Hall about the American Rescue Plan

Discussion and Status Update regarding Bill Lee Field Revitalization

Mr. Melesko reported that the Town will need to identify goals to develop an RFP for the scope of this project. It was noted that approximately $25,000 would identify the scope of work. He suggested a Special Meeting on this topic.

Public Comments

1. Councilor Kevin Gough, 5 Bear Ridge Road commended town staff and volunteers serving on town committees and working in town departments. He also commented on the lack of strategic thinking relative to the athletic fields at the Board of Education capital plans for restoration.

2. Lynette Easmon, 8 Jackson Road inquired about the overall condition and vandalism that occurred at the Oliver Filley House.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Wong, seconded by Councilor Calhoun to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.