

Commission on Social Services Minutes Feb 11, 2010

Attending: Judy Zucker, Peg Koellmer, Sue Chalons-Browne, Steve Lanza, Cathy Pierce, Beth Mason, Ed Raposa, Lauren Hughes, Roseann De Simone, Betty-Jo Corridon, Nate Shipp, Christine Suchy, Kelsey Brown, Judy Mabley

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm at the Wilton Teen Center.
The January 7, 2010 minutes were approved.

Task Force to Reduce Substance Abuse Among Youth

Roseann De Simone introduced the survey which indicated there is a high rate of alcohol use among Wilton High School students, especially in their junior and senior years. The Task Force is having a Community Conversation concerning this issue on April 7 from 7-9 PM at Cider Mill School.

Co-Chairpeople Kelsey Brown and Christine Suchy, who joined in the presentation, stated that they hoped to use this program as an opportunity to educate parents about the importance of not allowing kids to drink at home. That this idea of drinking at home will help reduce drinking outside the home and prepare kids for drinking is **false**. Instead, more parents need to “get on board” to stand up against under-age drinking.

Cathy Pierce stated that the survey indicated marijuana and alcohol use were becoming more prevalent. The Wilton police are more vigilant enforcing safe driving laws and Norwalk Courthouse has taken a firm stand against fake IDs. There is increased education shared with parents and educators concerning awareness of alcohol at home, school and community events, including the presence of Breathalyzers and no tolerance of alcohol at all school dances.

OLD/New Business

Director’s Report Cathy Pierce

Cathy reported that the town website includes the many ways financial planning and aid may be obtained. There are new cases being addressed every week, and Cathy sees the effects of the stress of frequent financial issues trickling down to the schoolchildren as well. Unemployment and housing foreclosures are becoming more common. Banking and other lending institutions have various policies and information is often difficult to find.

Food Pantry Cathy Pierce, Lauren Hughes

Lauren and Cathy frequently visit the Lower Fairfield Food Bank and described their trips to Stamford to obtain the foods available, some free and some at cost, for Wilton’s Food Pantry.

The Kiwanis Club has been extremely productive in supporting the Pantry. Peg Koellmer, Sue Chalons-Browne, Betty Jo Corridon, Ed Raposa and Judy Mabley volunteered to serve on a Pantry Committee.

Trackside Peg Koellmer

Peg reported that the Trackside Board is in the process of re-accessing the Trackside goals and organization. There are 17 members on the board. The executive committee is hard-working and dynamic.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm

Next Meeting: 5:30 pm Thursday, March 11, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mabley
Co-Secretary

