

**Commission on Social Services
Minutes April 8, 2010**

Attending: Nate Shipp, Betty-Jo Corridon, Roseann De Simone, Sue Chalons-Browne, Ed Raposa, Beth Mason, Peg Koellmer, Cathy Pierce, Judy Zucker, Rebecca Townsend

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.
The March 11, 2010 minutes were approved.

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Townsend, Head of Wilton High School's Child Development Program

Rebecca described the preschool she directs, which was begun in 1991 as part of the WHS Child Development curriculum. It is a small-group program (12-14 enrollment) offered for 3-4 year-old children, meeting from 9 am till noon 4 days a week (moving next year to a 5-day program). Annual tuition is \$2,500. The curriculum is developed by the 16 WHS students in the Child Development class. Enrollment in the program is down this year, with only 4 preschoolers currently attending. A marketing program has been started, and Rebecca requested the assistance of Social Services to make scholarships available through the Department. After some discussion, the consensus was that further exploration of the proposal is needed.

Director's Report: Cathy Pierce

In addition to her monthly report for March 2010, Cathy reported that she is submitting a grant application to United Way's Neighbor-to-Neighbor program requesting \$8,000 for assistance to people facing imminent foreclosure. The grant funds would supplement those provided by the Interfaith Fund and the Salvation Army, and would be used to help families with moving expenses.

Cathy also reported on the Community Conversation led by the Task Force on Underage Substance Abuse which was held at Trackside on April 7. Commission members Peg Koellmer and Roseann De Simone added their impressions of the event, saying that it was well-attended, but primarily by kids alone, rather than kids-with-parents. They expressed some disappointment that more adults were not present.

Old/New Business

The Commission as a whole agreed to act as nominators for officer appointments in the coming year. Those present agreed to continue in their current positions, and Sue Chalons-Browne will report on final appointments at the May meeting.

Liaison Updates

Trackside: Peg Koellmer and Nate Shipp

Peg and Nate reported that several new members have joined the Trackside board of directors, with Peg assuming the presidency. Current efforts include reshaping the structure of Trackside by writing new by-laws, job descriptions, operations and employee manuals, updating insurance and accounting procedures, getting the Trackside café up and running, maximizing utilization of the facility, and planning a full menu of summer programming in cooperation with Parks & Recreation and the Wilton Family Y. Additionally, two fundraisers are being planned for May and October.

Food Pantry: Betty-Jo Corridon

Peg has been leading the new Food Pantry Committee, which has proven to be effective and helpful. A list of needed items is posted monthly in the Wilton Bulletin, and Food Bank volunteers continue to support the efforts to keep the Pantry stocked each week.

Senior Center Advisory Meeting: Sue Chalons-Browne

This group will meet on Friday, April 16.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2010

5:30 pm

IN ROOM 23 DOWNSTAIRS AT COMSTOCK

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Mason
Co-Secretary