

**Commission on Social Services Minutes**  
**Minutes October 14, 2010**

**Attending:** Judy Zucker, Sue Chalons-Browne, Cathy Pierce, Beth Mason, Judy Mabley, Nate Shipp, Roseann De Simone, Edward Raposa, Steve Lanza

The meeting was held at Trackside Teen Center, called to order by Sue Chalons-Browne at 5:30 pm.

The minutes of the September 16, 2010 meeting were approved.

**Judy Zucker, Guest Speaker: Elderly Tax Relief Fiscal Year 2011**

Judy distributed an updated status summary report of the town's Elderly & Disabled Tax Relief Program, adopted January 2010 and prepared by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. It included a reduction in qualifying income for allowable medical expenses in excess of 7 1/2% of AGI; increase in qualifying income for maximum credit to \$39,500 and for any credit to \$74,000; maximum credit increase to \$4000, and a new formula method for calculating credit amounts along a curve.

Eligible homeowners applied for a total of \$1,079,802 in credit/deferral benefits for the current year. The Boards of Selectmen and Finance imposed an annual cap for the current fiscal year 2011 of \$850,000. The reduction was applied pro-rata, allowing approximately 77.26% of credits and 84.92% of deferrals.

This year 302 households were eligible for credit, compared to 235 last year. 129 households received a lower credit this year than last year; 173 households (including 90 new to the program) received higher credit this year. No households received 100% deferral this year; 21% received 100% deferral of balance last year. This year 170 households received maximum credit of \$3,090, compared to 124 households receiving maximum credit of \$3,700 last year.

This year 31 households received both credit and deferral benefits; one took deferral only; last year 24 received both credit and deferral benefits and four took deferral only.

A review of the program's history indicates that more households are participating this year than ever before and that the total dollar impact is higher this year than ever before.

**Departmental Concerns**

**Food Pantry: Nate Shipp**

Nate Shipp described some of the issues of the Food Pantry. In respect for privacy and use of the pantry, it is suggested that community volunteers, especially the senior population, do the

stocking. The high school students are supportive of the program and energized to creatively organize food drives. Additionally, the committee advocated preparing a confidentiality statement.

Peg Koellmer hosted a meeting of a Food Pantry Committee meeting on October 12 to discuss the administration of the committee. Stressed were community outreach and education. We advocated establishing an online "Care Calendar" to appear regularly in the local newspapers.

### **Scholarship Committee: Cathy Pierce**

Cathy and Sue are setting up a Scholarship Committee to research and update Social Services information regarding scholarships. Judy Mabley will be assisting. This will include contacting community and other organizations. There will be an article or editorial in the Wilton Bulletin planned for November 5.

### **Old/New Business & Liaison Updates**

#### **Trackside:**

It was announced that the Kiwanis Golf Tournament, held at Silvermine Golf Course, was a success. Most of the proceeds will go to Trackside.

The Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament was also successful; \$20,000 will also be donated to Trackside.

### **Domestic Violence Task Force: Beth Mason**

Beth reported on the Task Force's October awareness events. 98 purple tree ribbons have been hung throughout the town center by members of the Teen Peace Works board (representing an increase of 28 DV incidents over the 2009 total). A DV panel sponsored by the Task Force and the Wilton Library took place on October 14. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Friends Evening Out benefit for the DV Crisis Center, sponsored by Open House, is scheduled for October 28. The Wilton DVTF is urgently seeking new leadership, as its current chair, Janienne Hackett, will be moving. The next meeting will take place on November 17 at 7 pm at the Wilton Library.

### **Wilton Commons: Judy Mabley**

George Ciaccio and crew will be meeting with DECD and CHFA with funding requests, hopefully to be reviewed. The project costs will be \$9.6 million.

### **Senior Advisory Council: Cathy Pierce**

Gary Richards, Superintendent of Wilton Schools, spoke enthusiastically about student awareness of seniors' needs in Wilton. The classes want to focus on donating back to the community. Planned Homecoming activities will provide one venue for this. Roseann De

Simone reported that WHS students are donating funds from their Homecoming activities to the following charities:

Class of 2011 – Wilton Youth Council

Class of 2012 – Wilton Food Pantry

Class of 2013 – Wilton Domestic Violence Task Force

Class of 2014 – Wilton Social Services

The Wilton Booster Club and the coaches also support this idea.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

### **Wilton Commons – (Secretarial Privilege – reported after the meeting) – Judy Mabley**

As many of you now know, George Ciaccio announced on 9/24/10 after a meeting with CHFA & DECD all of our funding requests have been approved with praise and no comments. Total cost Will be \$9.6 million and includes the \$1.8 million from families, businesses and foundations.

**Next meeting: 5:30 to 7:00 pm, November 18, 2010  
Comstock School**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mabley  
Co-Secretary