

Commission on Social Services Minutes
December 9, 2010

Attending: Peg Koellmer, Mark Ketley (Trackside), Roseann De Simone, Cathy Pierce, Barbara Schum, Betty-Jo Corridon, Steve Lanza, Liz Doty, Ed Raposa, Nate Shipp, Judy Mabley and Sharon Bradley.

The meeting, held at Trackside Teen Center, was called to order by Peg Koellmer at 5:00 pm. The minutes of the November 11, 2010 meeting were approved.

Trackside – Mark Ketley

Mark distributed information regarding Trackside goals and objectives, mission and services. The information also included a profit & loss statement and the proposed 2011-2012 budget. A calendar indicated a growing total attendance from the middle schools and high school from 2008 through November of this year.

An example calendar detailed diverse community and youth activities such as meetings for Safe Rides, Peer Connections, Guiding Eyes puppy training, Social Services, yoga instruction, and The Café, as well as private rentals. The latest monthly calendar indicated usage of 26 out of 31 days. Recent events include performances by local bands, dances and parties, a December Masquerade, Holiday Movie Series and a Holiday Coffee House.

Monthly reports and financial statements are distributed to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. Financing comes from rentals, fundraising, and also generous support from Kiwanis. The golf tournament was a big success. The Holiday Boutique, Blind Dog, Minks to Sinks, ABC, the Flex Program and Wilton Women's Club have provided rental income as well.

Nursing and Home Care – Sharon Bradley

Sharon outlined her mandated services as responsibilities to schools, community health and clinics, private nursing services and unfunded home visits. An increase in the town budget for funding these responsibilities is expected.

One of the biggest challenges is trying to lower per diem administrative costs while costs in budgeted categories are increasing. Services to the community included 260 home visits and 100 H1N1 services.

Senior Center – Cathy Pierce and Liz Doty

Attendance is growing. Creative use of space is needed as programs increase in number and attendance. New offerings and revised rates are needed. It was noted that the charges for services given are very reasonable. Tai chi and yoga continue to be popular.

Cathy noted that salaries have remained “a wash.” Service-contract pricing has increased. Rental equipment has increased in price. Food pantry use has been brisk. \$7,000 has been spent this year to purchase perishable food. Community and school involvement have increased. Candlelight Concerts, Dial-A-Ride and the Little Theater have also included transportation and services for seniors. Hundreds of volunteers from Comstock Community Center and the Wilton Y have been of great help in keeping the myriad of services alive and well.

Wilton Commons

CSS celebrates the favorable community vote for Wilton Commons held on November 30 regarding the construction of 51 affordable housing units. The waiting list continues to grow, as does support for this town project, as evidenced by the vote.

Senior Center Renovations – Peg Koellmer and Cathy Pierce

Planned renovations in the Senior Center were outlined, including fabrics, colors, shelving, furniture, bookcases, the coffee center, and other plans.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm.

**Next Meeting: 5:30 to 7:00 pm, Thursday, January 6, 2011
Comstock Community Center**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mabley
Co-Secretary