

**Commission on Social Services  
Minutes February 9, 2012**

**Attending:** Peg Koellmer, Roseann De Simone, Judy Mabley, Betty-Jo Corridon, Judy Zucker, Cathy Pierce, Nate Shipp, Beth Mason

The meeting was called to order by Peg Koellmer at 5:35 PM.

The revised January 2012 minutes were approved.

**New Business: 2012 Fuel Campaign**

The campaign goal is \$63,000, of which approximately \$10,000 has been raised or pledged to date. Contributions are directed to Cathy Pierce at the Social Services Department, and Peg Koellmer is coordinating acknowledgements and thank-you letters from Realty Seven's office. The logistics for drop-off and pick-up of contributions canisters from town business locations were discussed. Peg will follow up with instructions for those Commission volunteers who are involved with the canister distribution. Campaign publicity has included letters to the editors of the local newspapers, the churches and service organizations, a banner and campaign thermometer displayed in Wilton Center, and a photo op with Bill Brennan. There was a discussion regarding ideas for the continuation and management of the Warm Up Fund for next year. We are anticipating the need for ongoing fundraising.

**Liaison Reports:**

Domestic Violence Task Force - Beth Mason

The DV Task Force met on January 25. Discussion included the February programs planned by WHS PeaceWorks students for Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month. The Wilton Police Department reports an 18% increase in domestic related incidents from 2010. Steve Lanza of Wilton (director of Project Re-entry) gave a presentation about the White Ribbon Campaign, whose mission is to end violence against women by engaging men, youth, and boys in the process. The Domestic Violence Crisis Center reports that both the Norwalk and Stamford shelters are currently at 101% capacity.

Stay At Home in Wilton – Beth Mason

New liaison position. Beth attended Stay at Home's monthly board meeting on February 7 and reports that the members are pleased to have representation from the Commission. The group's current focuses are to raise funds and attract new members. They have recently been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation, and they have hired a part time coordinator to organize events and schedule the volunteers who, along with paid professional

support, perform various services for members. The address of their newly-designed web site is [www.stayathomeinwilton.org](http://www.stayathomeinwilton.org).

Food Pantry – Betty-Jo Corridon

Supplies are currently low, but it is anticipated that upcoming food drives will help to restock.

Trackside – Nate Shipp

Building use by outside community groups continues to be active. The monthly Friday Coffee Houses have been very popular; the last one was attended by 110 teens. A new filmmaking competition is in the works, where teens will be able to write, cast, direct and present their own films.

Senior Center Advisory Council – Judy Zucker

The Council has obtained an electric music keyboard for the Senior Center lounge, as well as a complete set of outdoor furniture for the deck. A group from the Council made a recent field trip to, and were once again inspired by, the Westport Senior Center.

Wilton Commons – Judy Mabley

Positive progress reported.

Substance Abuse Task Force – Roseann De Simone

Next meeting is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>, when the results of the district parent-teen survey administered by Positive Directions will be presented.

Public School Health and Guidance – Roseann De Simone

New liaison position. Roseann will serve as our representative and will report as appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Mason  
Co-Secretary

**Next meeting: Thursday, March 8, 2012  
5:30 PM**