

DRAFT

**Commission of Social Services
Town of Wilton
March 8, 2012 – Minutes**

Attending: Peg Koellmer, Roseann DeSimone, Cathy Pierce, Judy Zucker, Nate Shipp, Suzanne Schintzius

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

Peg distributed the new rosters and announced that there is one more opening in the Commission to be filled.

The minutes of the February 9, 2012 meeting were approved.

New Business:

Wilton Warm-Up – Peg reported that \$36,000 has been raised to date, including a recent gift of \$6,300 from the Wilton Kiwanis. Lynne Vanderslice and Rita Garland have taken over the fundraising responsibility and are doing a great job towards the \$63,000 goal. A “Desserts and Drinks” event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2012 from 12:30-2:30pm at 103 Middlebrook Farm Road to benefit The Wilton Warm-Up Fund. Peg distributed copies of the Energy Assistance Guidelines from the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Secretary – Peg announced that Suzanne Schintzius has agreed to act as the new co-secretary with Beth Mason. Judy Mabley, the previous co-secretary has joined the board of Wilton Commons which will occupy much of her time.

Liaison Reports:

Trackside – Nate Shipp reported how well Trackside is doing with maximum utilization of its space including such programs as band concerts and filmmaking competitions. On April 28, a spring fundraiser is planned with a target fundraising goal of \$12,000. Nate mentioned that the building is 7 years old and may necessitate a reserve for maintenance and repair. In addition, Nate will follow up with First Selectman Bill Brennan about Wilton Commons’ plans to tap into Trackside’s sewer line at a cost of approximately \$15,000.

Domestic Violence Task Force – Beth Mason was not in attendance to give a report.

Wilton Interfaith Council/ Food Pantry – Cathy Pierce reported that, in addition to the Warm Up Fund, the Food Pantry is also going well, particularly from the Wilton Kiwanis Food Drive last weekend. There are 52 households served by the Food Pantry, which is being stocked with fresh fruits and vegetables as well as canned/dry goods, many thanks to “Community Plates,”

an organization in Norwalk which “rescues” food from grocery stores such as Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods.

Underage Drinking Task Force/Public School Health and Guidance – Roseann DeSimone reported that the Underage Drinking Task Force cancelled its meeting last month and has a scheduled meeting in two weeks. The schools are in the midst of CAP Testing, so there was no response from Public School Health and Guidance this month.

Wilton Commons – Nate Shipp reported that its closing began today, March 8, 2012. Paper closing expected within 10-14 days with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled on April 10, 2012 at Trackside. Cathy Pierce is being asked to participate in the resident selection committee. The units will be assigned based on a 3-tiered lottery system. Discussion ensued around congregate services vs. independent living.

Senior Center Advisory Council – Judy Zucker arranged for a tour of Founder’s Hall in Ridgefield on February 24 and was very impressed. It’s an elegant senior center having been funded both “inside and out” by two families with no membership fees, but exclusive to Ridgefield residents.

Stay at Home in Wilton – Beth Mason absent so no report this month.

Local Housing and Economic Report – Peg Koellmer reported that this season’s housing market is looking better than that of the previous year. Housing prices, however, are static. Buyers are out there but sellers in an adverse position. Mortgages are prevalent for those with very good credit history.

Youth Council – Suzanne was not prepared to give a report this month. Peg suggested that Judy Zucker or Roseann DeSimone introduce Suzanne to Colleen Fawcett and others who work for the Town before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Schintzius
Co-Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 5:30pm