

**Commission on Social Services
Town of Wilton
November 15, 2012 – Minutes**

Attending: Roseann De Simone, Virginia Smith, Betty-Jo Corridon, Peg Koellmer, Judy Zucker, Beth Mason, Cathy Pierce, Judy Mabley, and guests Jennifer McNamara (Chairman of the Wilton Domestic Violence Task Force), and Chief Michael Lombardo of the Wilton Police Department

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman Peg Koellmer.
The October 11, 2012 meeting minutes were approved.

Program: Wilton Police Chief Michael Lombardo on Domestic Violence

Chief Lombardo reviewed the current domestic violence picture in Wilton, citing comparative statistics from 2008 through the first 10 months of 2012. His presentation included discussion of possible causes in the increase of reported incidents in recent years (e.g. stresses caused by the state of the economy; greater public awareness; mandated differences in reporting methods), concluding that the police rarely can pinpoint the root causes of these incidents. Asked what the Social Services Commission's role should be, he advised continuing to promote local awareness, via the Domestic Violence Task Force and other means, and active teaming with the Domestic Violence Crisis Center to provide education and a safe haven for victims.

Director's Report

The Social Services staff and resources were fully deployed and stretched during and after Hurricane Sandy. The department provided housing for the out-of-state tree crews at the Miller-Driscoll shelter, in addition to housing residents. There followed a discussion of general concerns regarding storm emergency procedures, and specific concerns such as adequate shelter staffing (including the need for a nurse to be on site for the medically frail), and the need for additional CERT volunteers. The members voiced support for the staff in addressing these concerns for the management of future emergencies.

Liaison Reports:

Youth Council – Virginia Smith reported that the Council received a generous Kiwanis grant from the proceeds of the recent successful golf outing. A holiday brunch is scheduled for December 11, and a Spring Mental Health Day is being planned.

Wilton Commons – Judy Mabley reported on construction and furnishings.

Due to time constraints, other liaison reports were tabled until the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Mason
Secretary

Next Meeting – Thursday December 13, 2012 – 5:30 PM

