

Commission on Social Services
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2014

Present: R. DeSimone, V. Smith, J. Zucker, B. Corridon, P. Koellmer, C. Pierce, D. Graybill, C. Tenore

Chairperson Peg Koellmer called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The minutes of the 4/10/14 meeting were approved.

June meeting: It was agreed to continue the tradition of having an annual dinner meeting including Commission members and members of the Social Services Department. Commissioners and staff decided that the June 12 meeting will be held at Marley's and will include a 5 pm meeting followed by a dinner. Those planning on attending should send a check for \$25 to Peg Koellmer.

Liaison Reports:

Trackside: Peg Koellmer reported that Trackside is doing well. The spring fundraiser netted \$15,000, and the annual golf tournament fundraiser will be on June 16. She noted that high school students have taken active roles in planning and running these events. For example, teenage Trackside board members took charge of the silent auction at the fundraiser, and several high school seniors are organizing the golf outing as part of their senior internships.

Community Assistance Fund: Cathy Pierce reported that the fund is in good shape. Approximately \$28,000 in fuel assistance was disbursed this winter, reflecting the very cold temperatures and high oil prices.

Wilton clergy have scheduled a meeting on June 22 to discuss concerns about homeless persons in town. In recent months, some individuals have sought refuge in local churches and at the library. Typically, homeless persons in Wilton are transported to local shelters such as Open Door in Norwalk and Homes With Hope in Westport. Cathy will attend the June meeting to provide a Social Services perspective and share her knowledge of these local shelters.

Underage Drinking Task Force/Wilton High School: Roseann DeSimone reported that the Task Force continues to meet monthly to plan initiatives to combat substance abuse. In the coming month, high school proms will be cause for heightened vigilance.

The senior internship program at the high school continues to be successful. Seniors will spend from May 12 through June 11 interning at local businesses and organizations and with local professionals. The state of Connecticut is expected to mandate internships for all high school seniors in a few years.

Food Pantry: Betty Jo Corridon reported that the pantry continues to serve Wilton households.

Wilton Commons: David Graybill announced that the convenience store and hair salon are ready to open and are being run by the Resident Council of Wilton Commons. In addition, furnishings for the lobby, lounge, and chapel/meditation room are in the process of being installed. Wilton Commons is at full capacity with a waiting list. Some residents have reported fluctuations in their monthly lease fees. These rates are adjusted annually as per Area Median Income re-calculations.

Wilton Commons II is in the planning stages. This new facility will include congregate living with a meal plan and light housekeeping provided. Residents will be required to purchase one daily meal. In order to qualify, prospective residents must have at least one demonstrated weakness as measured by an Activities of Daily Living assessment.

Senior Center Advisory Council: Judy Zucker reported that the town vote on the capital bonding for Comstock improvements will be held on Saturday, May 10 from 9 am to 6 pm. Seniors are being contacted and informed about the urgent need for these improvements. Dial-a-Ride will be available to transport seniors to the Clune Center for voting. Replacement of the boiler is an acute need that will be addressed regardless of the outcome of the vote.

Youth Council: Virginia Smith described the April 23 program on recovery that included a screening of the film The Anonymous People. Approximately 100 people attended, including high school students, parents, community members, and local professionals.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Smith, Co-secretary