



Town of Wilton, CT
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2015

Present: Roseann DeSimone, Betty-Jo Corridon, Christine Tenore, Michael O'Connell, Pam Kelley, Cathy Pierce, Phil Lauria

Also Present: Deborah Low, Colleen Fawcett

Absent: Virginia Smith, Judy Zucker

Vice-Chairman Phil Lauria called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Phil Lauria introduced Deborah Low to members of the Commission. Deborah was nominated by the Democratic Town Committee to join the Commission, pending final approval by the Board of Selectman. Cathy Pierce introduced Colleen Fawcett to the Commissioners.

Upon motion by Pam Kelley, seconded by Phil Lauria, the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Phil Lauria presented the 2015-2016 meeting schedule to the Commissioners (included in these minutes). Phil noted the December 10, 2015 start time will be 5pm. No objections to the schedule change were noted.

Director's Report:

Cathy Pierce informed the Commissioners that the new part-time social worker – Sarah Muccio, LCSW – joined the department on September 10, 2015. Cathy discussed the external posting process for the department's administrative assistant position, as no internal applications were received for the backfill position. Cathy hopes to have the position filled in October 2015.

Roseann DeSimone asked Cathy about demand for the Insomnia Education program delivered this summer. Cathy described the large number of attendees and outlined plans to extend the program in the Fall.

Cathy updated the Commissioners about the growth of hoarding in Wilton, in response to a question from Phil Lauria. She estimated hoarding impacts 5% of resident homes, leading to increased attention by the Health and Fire departments. She attributed much of the growth to the overall aging of the town's population.

Mental Health Needs Assessment Committee

Colleen Fawcett lead an in-depth discussion regarding the formation of a Committee to assess the long term drivers and demand for mental health services among member of the Wilton community. While the committee is under development, Colleen listed Pam Kelley, Virginia Smith, Rosann DeSimone, and Deborah Low (pending confirmation) as potential Commissioners to serve with her on the committee.

Colleen outlined the proposed timeline for the committee (September – December) to define the need, gather data, perform a gap analysis, and report back to the Commissioners for potential actions and next steps in early 2016. Colleen and Cathy intend to utilize the student intern from Western CT State College as a primary resource for much of the data collection to support the committee.



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The next planning steps and actions are pending the formalization of the committee's charter and members for the Commission.

Liaison Reports:

Trackside – a new program director is in place as the Center opens this Fall. Trackside also received a large donation from Blue Buffalo.

Underage Drinking – the substance abuse survey results, conducted in late 2014/early 2015 by Positive Directions, is planned to be released to the community in the Fall of 2015, with specific timing to be determined.

Wilton Commons – the break-ground date for Phase II remains undetermined, pending the CT Housing Services department signoff. The expectation is for construction to begin in the Fall of 2015. 57 people are on the waiting list for the existing facility, with some movement between the congregate option for Phase II and the existing complex. An idea was suggested to partner with Trackside for a winter social event.

Stay at Home Wilton – a discussion of the on-going need to have Commission involvement with the group, given the high level of independence and self-sufficiency was held. No specific follow-up actions noted.

WPS Health and Guidance – the school year is off to a smooth start, with the new Superintendent continuing to bring a fresh, new approach to the role of administrators in the classroom. Technology upgrades – WiFi and faculty laptops, in particular – continue to permeate the high school, as a paperless mandate works through the staff.

Youth Council – the new Board is in-place for the 2015-2016 year, expressing a strong interest in exploring the mental health needs of youth in the community.

Community Assistance Fund – on a calendar year-to-date basis, the Fund has spent \$67,000, with the majority of fund raising coinciding with the upcoming fuel season.

Comstock Renovation – report pending return of Judy Zucker.

New business:

Roseann DeSimone thanked Christine Tenore and Virginia Smith for their year of dedicated service as Chairman and Vice Chairman to the Commission, noting in particular their willingness to address many unresolved issues.

Betty-Jo Corridon announced her plans to retire from the Commission in December 2015.

Phil Lauria mentioned Virginia Smith also plans to step-down from the Commission in December 2015.

Mike O'Connell circulated a copy of the 2014-2015 Commissioner Roster for revisions and updates. Christine Tenore will provide Mike an electronic copy of the file in MS Word/Excel.



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Upon motion to adjourn made by Roseann DeSimone, seconded by Christine Tenore, and unanimously approved, the meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary



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COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES Meeting schedule*

Fiscal Year 2016

Location: Comstock Senior Center Lounge

Time: 5:30 p.m.*

September 10, 2015

October 8, 2015

November 12, 2015

December 10, 2015*

January 14, 2016

February 11, 2016

March 10, 2016

April 14, 2016

May 12, 2016

June 9, 2016*

*Exceptions: Meetings on December 10 and June 9 will start at 5 p.m.