



Town of Wilton, CT  
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES  
Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2015

Present: Virginia Smith, Peg Koellmer, Michael O'Connell, Judy Zucker, Pam Kelley, Cathy Pierce, Phil Lauria.

Also present: Pat Kapsinow, Lauren Hughes, Lizabeth Doty

Absent: Christine Tenore, Roseann DeSimone, Betty-Jo Corridon

Co-chairman Virginia Smith called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Upon motion by Pam Kelley, seconded by Peg Koellmer, the minutes of the May 14, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Pam Kelley, seconded by Peg Koellmer, the following commission members were unanimously elected to one-year terms, effective immediately:

Chairman – Judy Zucker

Vice Chairman – Phil Lauria

Secretary – Michael O'Connell

Director's Report:

Cathy Pierce briefly outlined the progress in recruiting for the approved, new part-time position and the replacement for retiring administrative assistant Sharon Powers. In lieu of additional reporting, Cathy proposed allowing members of the Social Services department to present individual reports to the Commission members. Receiving no objections, the following reports were received:

- Pat Kapsinow – Benefits Counselor

Pat outlined the variety of CT and Federal benefits programs she advises Wilton residents about, including, among others: SNAP, Cash Assistance, Medicare Assistance, and the CT Home Care program. She spoke about the cyclical nature of client needs, predominately driven by macro-economic cycles, specifically the increase in clients needing assistance with seniors moving to Wilton homes with their adult children.

- Lauren Hughes – Senior Services Coordinator

Lauren described the influx of Wilton residents aged 65+ and the assistance she provides across a wide spectrum of services, including applying for Medicare, planning for retirement, and the increase of adult children caring for parents in their home. She also outlined the family programs she manages – Back to School and Holiday Gifts – as well as the growth of the Food Pantry program, which she and Cathy manage. She thanked the Commission members for their support in obtaining an additional 3 paid hours per week, allowing her to expand targeted services going forward.

- Lizabeth Doty – Senior Activities Coordinator



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Liz detailed the Senior Center programs offered to Wilton residents while thanking the Commission members for their support and assistance through the renovations underway at the Comstock Community Center. She explained how the programs operate with respect to the collection of fees, which she reported to be 20-25% above budget. She described the 3 “types” of seniors supported by the center and the specific service offerings unique to each group: Baby Boomers, Mid-Seniors, and Greatest Generation (WWII) seniors.

Liaison Reports:

No liaison reports were presented

New business:

The Commission members unanimously thanked Peg Koellmer for her many years of service dedicated to the role of Social Services in the community.

Upon motion to adjourn made by Phil Lauria, seconded by Mike O’Connell, and unanimously approved, the meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O’Connell, Secretary