

Town of Wilton, CT
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2015

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

Absent: Peg Koellmer

Co-chairman Virginia Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Upon motion by Roseann DeSimone, seconded by Judy Zucker, the minutes of the February 12, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

New Commissioner:

Christine Tenore introduced Phil Lauria to the Commissioners, noting his 28 years of personal and professional experience with social issues in the community and the State of CT. He is also a board member for Wilton Commons GP.

Charge Update:

Christine Tenore circulated copies of the Board of Selectmen approved revision to the Commission on Social Service Charge. Roseann DeSimone made a motion to approve the revisions, seconded by Pam Kelley. The vote to approve the revisions was unanimous.

Guest Presentation – Colleen Fawcett

Cathy Pierce introduced Colleen Fawcett, Wilton Youth Services Coordinator.

Colleen informed the Commissioners about the possible loss of two existing youth services grants to Social Services Department.

The CT Youth Services Advance Grant, provided by the CT Youth Services Association (www.ctyouthservices.org), provides \$6,200 annually for the past 7 years to help fund the Youth Services Program manager and other targeted programs to children of the community, particularly the expansion of community gardens in Wilton. The proposal to eliminate the grant is expected to be acted upon in the end of May/early June timeframe. A larger Youth Services Grant from the CT Department of Education, totaling \$14,000 per year, is also being considered for elimination. It also helps fund the Youth Services Program manager part-time position.

Colleen asked Commission members to reach out to elected officials on behalf of these grants to insure they continue to provide critical services to Wilton's youth.

Directors Report:

Cathy briefly updated the Commissioners on the Comstock construction, particularly the impact upon the Food Panty from required shut down activities for the renovations. It's an on-going concern, which will be managed on a day-by-day basis to minimize service disruptions to the community.

Liaison Reports:

Virginia Smith provided an update on several Youth Council initiatives, including:

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- Dr. Robert Brooks will lead a day-night lecture series on April 27, 2015 focused on Raising Resilient Children and Adolescents;
- Peer Connections at Middlebrook Middle School initiated a new session of programs; and,
- Vanessa Hoffman will assume the President role for Youth Council.

Christine Tenore nominated Phil Lauria to serve as the Wilton Commons liaison and Phil accepted. He provided an update on the operational status of several amenities at the facility along with outlining the approval process for the Congregate Housing construction, which could break ground as soon as late Spring 2015.

Judy Zucker briefly updated the Commissioners on monthly reporting for the Comstock Renovations, offering to provide the monthly report provided to the Board of Selectmen to Commission members via email.

New business:

No new business was discussed.

Upon motion by Pam Kelly, seconded by Betty-Jo Corridon, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary