



Town of Wilton, CT
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2016

Present: Judy Zucker, Ann Mitrone, Phil Lauria, Deborah Low, Michael O'Connell, Cathy Pierce, Christine Tenore

Absent: Pam Kelley, Danielle Mancuso, Genevieve Eason

Chairman Judy Zucker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of minutes from the March 2016 meeting was deferred until May 2016.

Directors Report

Cathy discussed the potential impact of the Governors budget planning upon the Social Services department budget. Two state grants could be impacted and require monitoring by the Commissioners – the Youth Services Bureau grant and the Youth Enhancement Grant.

Cathy reported the Wilton community assistance fund (WCAF) will spend \$18K less than budgeted, due to the mild winter. The funds will be placed in reserve to support future growth and unplanned needs.

Liaison Reports:

Underage Drinking Task Force – Pam Kelley (by Judy Zucker). Pam attended the March 17th meeting at Middlebrook School, the primary purpose of which was the finalization of the agenda and panel discussion members for the April 20th Opioid / Heroin Epidemic seminar at the Wilton High School Little Theatre, presented in conjunction with Silver Hill Hospital and other local organizations. Pam was impressed by the reach and depth outside groups provide to the community regarding underage drinking. However, the need to increase student involvement remains high. Pam explained the relationship between the Regional Action Committee (RAC) for underage drinking and the Mid-Fairfield Substance Abuse Council (MFSAC) to the Commissioners.

Special Topic Discussion – Stay at Home Wilton

Judy Zucker introduced two members of the [Stay at Home Wilton](#) organization – Barbara Quincy, President, and Janet Johnson, Executive Coordinator.

Barbara provided the Commissioners with background on the establishment of the organization, as a local part of the [Village to Village Network](#), started in 2001 in Boston, MA. Stay at Home in Wilton services the needs of senior citizens of Wilton who desire to stay in their homes rather than move to various alternative residence complexes offering congregate living or assisted living. They began operations in 2010 and have grown to 90 members, 30% of whom are couples. Annual membership dues by members support the services offered and the newly hired roles of executive coordinator and membership director. While the opportunity for expansion and growth is large within the Wilton community, Barbara emphasized the challenges the organization faces, including people, money, and energy. The programs in New Canaan and Darien provided a framework for initiating the Wilton organization.

Janet outlined the range of services offered, the largest of which is the need for transportation. Household assistance – painters, carpenters, electricians, etc – and social events and trips are the next most popular services for members.



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A lively exchange with the Commissioners, Cathy Pierce, Barbara and Janet followed, focused on potential areas for future collaboration and sharing of ideas and resources.

Other Business

Judy Zucker discussed the nominating timeline for the Commissioners for the 2016-2017 term. She will be working to deliver a slate of executive officers for presentation at the May Commission meeting, with voting to take place at the June meeting.

Deborah Low offered to host the June meeting at her home.

Upon motion to adjourn made by Phil Lauria, seconded by Ann Mitrone, and unanimously approved, the meeting ended at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary