

Town of Wilton, CT  
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES  
Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2015

Present: Virginia Smith, Peg Koellmer, Michael O'Connell, Judy Zucker, Betty Jo Corridon, Pam Kelley, Roseann DeSimone, Cathy Pierce

Absent: Christine Tenore

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

Upon motion by Virginia Smith, seconded by Judy Zucker, the minutes of the November 13, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved. The minutes of the December 11, 2014 meeting were not available for approval – they will be reviewed and approved at the February 2015 meeting.

Virginia Smith proposed the 2015 Commission meeting schedule, see below, which was unanimously approved.

Guest Presentation:

Cathy Pierce introduced Jeff Wieser, the President & CEO of Westport-based Homes with Hope ([www.hwhct.org](http://www.hwhct.org)). Jeff detailed the history of the program, spanning over 30 years, beginning as the Interfaith Housing Association to their current position as one of only 4 housing and shelter organizations in the country dealing with affluent, suburban homeless communities. Jeff explained the organization's shift in the mid-1990's to their primary focus on permanent, supportive housing instead of temporary, emergency shelters and elaborated on their partnership with the Westport Housing Authority, leading to their current configuration of 4 permanent supportive housing facilities and 3 emergency shelters. State and Town funding account for 30% of their budget – they receive \$8,000 annually from Wilton – with the balance of their funds from private donors.

He concluded his discussion with an in-depth review of the State of CT 211 Program ([www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org)) for community service referrals and its impact of their day-to-day homeless bed management, beginning in November 2014.

Judy Zucker proposed commission members coordinate a visit to the facility to improve understanding and awareness of the program.

Director's Report:

Cathy requested commission member support at the Board of Selectman budget meeting, January 15, 2015 at 7:30pm. She circulated a request to commission members to reach-out to their local representative in support of General Assembly Bill #18 requesting the establishment of a task force to study hoarding as a major public health issue in CT.

Liaison Reports:

Peg Koellmer discussed the Traskside budget proposal, including an increase in staffing funding. The Board of Selectman feedback on the Safe Rides and Tutoring programs was very positive.

Betty Jo Corridon reported on a recent Wilton Commons board meeting.

New business:

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The Commission Charter review meeting with the Board of Selectman is moved to the February 2, 2015 meeting at Town Hall. All Commission members were asked to attend.

Upon motion by Roseann DeSimone, seconded by Judy Zucker, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary

Town of Wilton  
Commission on Social Services  
2015 Meeting Schedule

All meetings will held at the Wilton Senior Center at 5:30 pm

January 8

February 12

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10