

Town of Wilton, CT
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2015

Present: Christine Tenore, Peg Koellmer, Michael O'Connell, Judy Zucker, Pam Kelley, Roseann DeSimone, Cathy Pierce, Phil Lauria

Absent: Virginia Smith, Betty-Jo Corridon

Co-chairman Christine Tenore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Upon motion by Phil Lauria, seconded by Pam Kelley, the minutes of the March 12, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Directors Report:

Cathy provided a brief update on the Comstock construction, particularly the impact upon the Food Pantry. For the next 3-4 months, the temporary construction closures to the Pantry will occur for a two-to-three week period. Rather than relocate all of the food, clients will be able to take extra non-perishable items and will be given Stop and Shop cards for their perishable food. Cathy reiterated how flexible and adaptive the staff and clients will need to be during the short term service changes, while working closely with the Building Committee and crews.

The Commissioners and Cathy discussed the need for increased financial transparency and reporting, on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Cathy updated the Commissioners on the status of the Youth Services State of CT grants, noting Toni Boucher and Gail Lavielle are working actively to receive notifications from appropriate state agencies as to the possible cancellation of the Youth Enhancement Grant that currently supports the Garden Program.

The Commissioners also discussed the evolving nature of clinical work done by Youth Services, focusing on the changing client relationship commitments and its associated impact for staffing and serving the community. Judy Zucker suggested Cathy and the Co-Chairmen organize an in-depth discussion dedicated to the topic for the September 2015 meeting.

Liaison Reports:

Judy Zucker provided a copy of the monthly board of selectman Capital Projects Building Committee report to the Commissioners. The Commissioners were invited to tour the on-going construction prior to the next Meeting – 5pm, May 14, 2015.

Peg Koellmer updated the Commissioners on the Safe Rides program change regarding the end of sponsorship from the Boy Scouts. Peg also discussed a large donation from Blue Buffalo to Trackside and introduced a discussion of the on-going debate on the Trackside board regarding the business model for community-based teen centers.

Roseann DeSimone briefly reported the success of the Senior Lunch held at the Clune Center and cafeteria of Wilton High School.

Phil Lauria reported the congregate housing addition to Wilton Commons received a favorable review from the Inland Wetlands commission on March 26, 2015, allowing for an application for a building permit to proceed.

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Christine Tenore spoke on behalf of Virginia Smith regarding the lecture series presentation by Dr. Robert Brooks on April 27, 2015 focused on Raising Resilient Children and Adolescents.

New business:

Christine Tenore informed the Commissioners that the co-Chairmen and Vice Chairman of the Commission intend to step down from their leadership positions in June. She asked all Commission members interested in assuming a leadership position to submit their names by May 1st to any of the current Chairmen. If no one responds by that date, the co-Chairmen will follow-up with telephone calls to individual Commission Members to discuss potential nominations to submit for consideration at the May 2015 meeting. Under the terms of the Commission Charge, the actual vote will take place at the June meeting.

Peg Koellmer informed the Commissioners of her intention to retire from the Commission after the June 2015 meeting.

Upon motion by Roseann DeSimone, seconded by Judy Zucker, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary