

Commission on Social Services  
Town of Wilton  
Meeting Minutes  
October 10, 2013

Present: Roseann DeSimone, Judy Mabley, Betty Jo Corridon, Virginia Smith, David Graybill, Christine Tenore, Peg Koellmer, Judy Zucker

Chairman Peg Koellmer called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

The minutes of the September 12 meeting were approved.

Mike O'Connell recently was approved as Commissioner by the Board of Selectmen and will join the Commission at its November meeting.

Commission Business:

The meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Commission's liaison relationships with various organizations in town. In some cases, these organizations receive funding from the town. In other cases, the Commission maintains an advisory relationship with the organization. The charge of the Social Services Commission, as written in June 2001, was reviewed.

Trackside: Peg Koellmer reported that the Safe Rides program started on the first weekend of October, with 30 rides provided over the first weekend. Currently, there are eight trained volunteer drivers. Safe Rides is not sponsored by Trackside, but its volunteers use Trackside as the program's home base. Peg Koellmer will continue to serve as liaison to Trackside as well as the Safe Rides program. She will try to have a Safe Rides representative present an overview of the program at a future CSS meeting.

Domestic Violence Task Force: At present, the Wilton DVTF is loosely organized, and it is not meeting on a regular basis. Because the DVTF is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, its fundraising capability is limited. The question was raised whether there is a Wilton representative to the Domestic Violence Crisis Center. The issue of whether the Commission should maintain an ongoing liaison with the DVTF was tabled until the next meeting.

Wilton Community Assistance Fund (formerly the Wilton Interfaith Council): Cathy Pierce will report at next month's meeting.

Underage Drinking Task Force: Roseann DeSimone reported that this organization seems to have lost student members and interest seems to be waning.

Public School Health and Guidance: Roseann DeSimone reported that Dr. S. David Bernstein, an expert on school violence, will be conducting a district-wide inservice in November for all school personnel. The program will focus on student mental

health, school violence, and identification of students in need of intervention. Dr. Bernstein also will be available to consult with the schools as needed.

Food Pantry: The high school will sponsor a “Stuff the Bus” food drive on October 25. High school staff will get the donated items into Comstock, and Kiwanis volunteers will date check and shelve the items. Betty Jo Corridon will continue to serve as liaison with the Food Pantry.

Wilton Commons: There are eight apartments remaining to be rented, and there is a 12/13/13 deadline to fill these units before a fine is incurred. David Graybill reported that there currently are two active committees, a marketing committee and a transition committee that is focusing on the transition from the development phase to the operations phase. Some delays in the start-up of some advertised services were noted. David Graybill will serve as liaison to Wilton Commons.

Senior Center Advisory Council: This organization will meet next week. Judy Zucker will continue to serve as liaison.

Stay at Home Wilton: Judy Mabley reported that Stay at Home Wilton currently has 73 members. A number of social events, including luncheons and outings, have been organized. In addition, members are eligible for services such as driving and assistance with minor household repairs. Volunteers, especially drivers, are needed. Some scholarship money is available for seniors who cannot afford the membership fee. Judy Mabley will continue to serve as liaison.

Wilton Youth Council: Virginia Smith reported that the Youth Council has a new president, Maria Wilcox, as well as other new members. There seems to be a renewed energy and enthusiasm among Council members. Virginia Smith will continue to serve as liaison.

It was questioned whether the Commission should have a liaison relationship with the Wilton YMCA. This issue was tabled until next month’s meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Smith, co-secretary