

Commission on Social Services
Minutes October 16, 2008

Attending: Cathy Pierce, Sue Chalons-Browne, Beth Mason, Betty-Jo Corridon, Judy Zucker, Amy Jeffereis, Judy Mabley

The September 18, 2008 minutes were approved.

Director's Report

Cathy Pierce outlined the new Independent Transportation Network which will hold public forums on October 20 and 21. This new regional program provides rides at no cost for senior citizens. The program utilizes paid volunteers who would drive during hours when most services are open and to neighboring towns as well. Seed funds are available and the program would function in addition to existing groups.

Liaison Reports

Domestic Violence Task Force: Beth Mason described a fund raiser that will be held at Open House on Thursday, October 23, from 7 to 9 PM. A percentage of the sales will be donated to DVCC. The program was a success last year and is expected to be again!

Trackside: Amy Jeffereis announced that the Teen Center has a new Director, Bill Glass. Strategic planning is underway. Usage has increased especially among the younger attendees. However, there is a financial deficit. Programs and rentals will be studied.

Community/Senior Center: Susan Bruschi is the BOS liaison to the Comstock Building Committee. Judy Zucker spoke about the recent economic stresses that will affect upcoming funding. The committee is gathering architectural information, evaluating a time line and discussing usage of Comstock. On November 3, the Board of Selectmen will discuss the Comstock Project at the Town Hall meeting which begins at 7:30 PM.

Wilton Commons: Betty-Jo Corridon and Judy Mabley reported on the progress of Wilton Commons. Although Wilton was not awarded tax credits again this year, with the help of Toni Boucher and other legislators, a plan for alternative funding was optimistically discussed in Hartford. A press release is expected soon.

Underage Drinking Task Force: The committee's plans include producing a DVD, maintaining its collaboration with community groups, and sponsoring a Save-A-Life-Tour at Wilton High School this winter. The abuse of alcohol and pot continue to be major problems.

Other Business

Cathy also told us Wilton Kiwanis has donated \$1,000 to the DSS Interfaith Fund. Requests for fuel assistance have been increasing, especially from fixed-income families and seniors. The Social Service budget and the Food Bank are being strained. Encore Club will hold a benefit fashion show at Shorehaven for DSS. A Bake Sale at the Village Market is planned by Key Club on November 22 to benefit the Interfaith Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Next Meeting Thursday, November 13, 2008, 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mabley, Co-Secretary

