

DRAFT
Commission on Social Services
Minutes November 12, 2009

Attending: Judy Zucker, Peg Koellmer, Sue Chalons-Browne, Betty Jo Corridon, .Judy Mabley, Steve Lanza, Cathy Pierce, Lauren Hughes, Christian Camerota, Fire Chief Paul Milositz

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

The October 8, 2009 minutes were approved as written.

Director's Report – Cathy Pierce

During these difficult financial times, with revenues down and with a flat budget likely, Cathy expects the department will focus on meeting commitments and creatively addressing services.

Guest Speaker – Fire Chief Paul Milositz

Chief Milositz described the changing times, particularly since 2001, affecting town governments. Communities need to be prepared for such issues as hazardous-material handling, more severe storms, terrorist/biological threats and pandemics—large events. Realistic preparedness includes jointly addressing these issues with other communities and regionally, along with advocating for and investigating state and federal guidelines and funding.

The Wilton Police, EMS and Fire Departments plan to be part of a 14-Town Emergency Command Center. The foci will include working with Homeland Security, regional communication from safe centers, dedicated radio frequencies, expecting significant spending/budgeting needs and obtaining grants from the federal government.

Chief Milositz also provided information on the flu vaccines. Misjudgments of manufacturing and distribution delays of the vaccines have caused many problems! At this time, Wilton has been informed that we will have no more seasonal flu vaccine. The H1 N1 vaccine will be provided at the next flu clinic on November 17. Additional information can be obtained on the Town Website.

Issues to address for emergency preparedness were also presented. Guidelines for diagnosing and prioritizing emergency measures to be put into place were discussed, including “Code Red,” phones, Email and other lines of communication to be kept open. Kiwanis has a service in place to send emergency information to those registered. To register, use the Kiwanis website – wiltonkiwanis.org.

Christian Camerota provided us with a description of his online newspaper, Wilton.Patch.com. It covers not just news, but community events. He will be happy to publish information from our committee. However, this service is not meant to compete with our local news sites.

New Business

DVCC, chaired by Jenienne Hackett, will present A Family Forum on December 3 which will focus on the issue of Domestic Violence. This is a 7-town event and will be held at Saxe Middle School in Darien at 7pm.

Wilton Lacrosse Association is collecting lacrosse equipment and will be providing scholarships for its members

The Wilton Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual holiday walk on December 4 beginning at 6 pm. There will be collection points provided for the Food Pantry. Holiday activities are planned and Santa will greet children at the Gazebo.

Additional Comments

Sue Chalons-Browne announced that Rebecca Townsend, director of the preschool at the Wilton High School, announced that scholarships are available for entering children.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Next Meeting: 5:00 pm Thursday, December 3, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mabley

Co-Secretary