

Human Services Commission Meeting

Minutes

September 9, 2016

Attending: Olive Hauser, Ali Ramsteck, Rachel Martin, Holly Hawes, Polly Lowman, Beverly Kelsey, Lisa Stout, Jennifer Geddes, Melisse Reardon

Minutes: The minutes of July 8, 2016 were approved as presented.

TGS&A Committee Report: Frank Kemp and Clara Sartori reviewed the proposed Blight Ordinance. Currently there are estimated to be 20-25 Blight cases in town. The new draft of this Ordinance focusses more on Darien Human Services and a Review Board providing the property owners with an avenue for appeal and where appropriate, guidance and support from Darien Human Services. Frank hopes that this Ordinance will be on the agenda for the October RTM meeting and to become effective January 1, 2017.

Review of Darien's Affordable Housing: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson provided an update on where Darien stands currently with Affordable Housing as well as the plans to develop additional Affordable Housing in Darien. Jayme stated that Darien is doing relatively well as compared to other towns similar to ours. Jeremy Ginsberg is in the process of developing a list of all affordable housing units in the town. Recent developments such as The Heights and the Leroy/West development as well as proposed developments such as the Palmer's/Noroton Heights and Baywater's mixed use projects as well as the redevelopment of the Old Town Hall Homes are helping the town to get to its required number of affordable housing. If a developer proposes to build 5+units in town then they are required to make 12% of the units "affordable housing". If the developer chooses not to include the affordable housing with in their proposed development then they need to provide the units someplace else in town, as Penny Glassmeyer has done, or pay a sum to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The issue of managing the wait-list for affordable units in town is still being discussed. Jayme has asked the Commission to address this issue directly with the Planning and Zoning Commission in a letter to me. Olive will draft a letter for Rachel's review.

Chairman's Update: Rachel updated us on the two open seats on the Commission.

Department Update: Ali reminded all in attendance that October is Domestic Abuse Awareness month and that on October 1st at 9am the Darien Domestic Abuse Council organized **Walk a Mile in Our Shoes**. Olive updated us on the Back to School Program, Energy Assistant programs and the up and coming Holiday programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melisse Reardon

Melisse Reardon, Secretary