

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 15, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Arden Anderson-Broecking, Robin Woods, Mary McCarthy, Ray Slavin, Ron Heinbaugh (9:05 a.m.)

STAFF: Ally Ramsteck, Human Services Case Manager; Beth Paris, Senior Center Director

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

March 18, 2015 -

The following change was noted:

Page 3, please change the motion from:

**** MR. PANKOWSKI MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION ASK THE TOWN TO REASONABLE MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF UNITS AT THE DEVELOPMENT.**

**** MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TO:

**** MR. PANKOWSKI MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION ASK THE TOWN TO REASONABLY MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF UNITS AT THE DEVELOPMENT.**

**** MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. SLAVIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2015 AS AMENDED.**

**** MS. WOODS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2015 AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SENIOR CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris then updated everyone on the recent meeting with the new advocate in Hartford. The group is working on having electronic meetings so that everyone can attend without having to commute. The attendance figures have increased with the arrival of spring.

She presented her report. (See attached.)

Ron Heinbaugh joined meeting at 9:05 p.m.

HUMAN SERVICES.

Ms. Ramsteck then presented the Human Services report. (See attached) She said that the department took part in a SWOP, which is a threat analysis. The Energy Assistance program will finish up on May 1st. The program has worked out well with ABCD this year. The Renter's Rebate program is starting and will continue through October 1st. (See attached)

The Darien Safer Home Project is starting to focus on extreme hoarding and clutter issues. The staff is working with the Fire Marshal and a Task Force is being developed. There will be a conference on this topic in May.

The Ask the Social Worker program at the Senior Center is working well. The Medicare Savings program is also working well. The applications have been processed by DDS within a month.

OLD BUSINESS.

Mr. Pankowski said that the Selectmen had voted to demolish the former Senior Center at Edgerton. He then pointed out that there was one error in the newspaper article about the fact that there was a charity that was willing to pay for the demolition of the building and develop the parcel. However, the Board of Education was considering the future uses of the parcel.

There will be a meeting on the 28th at the Old Town Hall housing about the upcoming renovations. Prior to that meeting, the developers will be coming to speak to the residents. Ms. Anderson-Broecking spoke about the difficulties during the winter when cars were plowed in and there was ice build up on the steps. She said that she thought that the new managers may be more responsive to these issues.

Mr. Slavin asked whether it would be worthwhile to write a letter correcting about the demolition of the Edgerton property. Mr. Pankowski said that he did not think it would be worthwhile.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. ANDERSON-BROECKING MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MS. GEDDES SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Commission on Aging Report

Darien Senior Programs

April 15, 2015

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Director

Darien Senior Programs was selected to for the new State Commissioner on Aging Betsy Ritter to tour the Mather Center and discuss Senior Programs. It was an honor and privilege that we all share in.

Intergenerational Activity: We also hosted the Middlesex Jazz Band for a before lunch concert and luncheon 19 kids performed to a crowd of 71 Seniors and then scattered about the room for lunch and conversation-lovely event

New/Highlighted Classes: ON April 16th participated in *National Health Care Decision Day* –lecture facilitated by Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County; **Knitting Class** with a Human Service goal

Health and Wellness Presentations: RVNA “*Having the Talk with Your Kids*” complimentary lunch included; **CT Pharmacy:** *Top Ten Health Habits*; **Stamford Hospital’s** Lunch and Learn: *Dermatology*

History: *Statue of Liberty*-Art Gottlieb LCSW; *Adventures in Japan-Off the beaten Path* w/Fred Chang

Entertainments: *Sedgwick Sisters* back by popular demand-“*The Fabulous 50’s*” as part of our **Volunteer Recognition Day** 37 folks who Volunteer for the Darien Senior Programs honored 94 folks participated in lunch and entertainment....

Program Days: 21 (Closed Good Friday)

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support: 12

At Home in Darien Referrals: 3

Caregiver Options Counseling: 7

Human Services Referrals: 8

Mather Evening Use: 5

EMS calls: 0

Highlighted Programs:

1st Garden Club of Darien- Pleasure through Plants Program

1st Iris Paper Folding w Jo-an Jacobs

2nd Middlesex Middle school Jazz Ensemble & Lunch

3rd CLOSED Good Friday

6th Blood Pressure Screening

6th RVNA “*Having the Talk with Your Kids*”

7th *Adventures in Japan-“Off the Beaten Path”* Fred Chang

8th Crafts: Making Yo-yo’s with Holly

9th BINGO Plus –Pam James

10th Statue of Liberty w/ Art Gottlieb LCSW

14th Volunteer Celebration

14th Sedgwick Sisters: Fabulous 50's
15th Caregiver Educational Support Group
16th NATIONAL Health Care Decisions Day
21st Stamford Hospital Lunch and Learn "Dermatology"
22nd Craft Felted Brooches w/Holly
28th Darien Library Program
29th Craft Jewelry Collages w/ Holly

Ongoing Work in Progress:

Late Summer/Fall Program Planning
Daily Statistics
Monthly Newsletter
BINGO extravaganza Organizing
Researching New Program Opportunities

Meetings: Meeting with Commissioner Betsy Ritter of State Department on Aging-tour and information on Darien Senior Programs; SWCAA Advisory Board meeting April 8th; COA Meeting April 15th; Staff Meeting April 10th

Commission on Aging

4/15/15

Darien Human Services

1) This quarter we took part in a **SWOT** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) **Analysis** for our department, with the guidance of the Chair of our Commission Debra Hertz. It helped us to look at our department in a new and meaningful way. From the document that was produced, we will be writing up specific ways in which to address the most significant issues noted in the exercise.

2) **Energy Assistance Program** is wrapping up. Electric and gas clients have until 5/1/15 to apply. The last day to order deliverable fuel, oil and propane was 3/16/15. It has been a pleasure working with ABCD this year. Our clients with electric heat (which includes all of Senior Housing and The Heights), are now starting to see the grants applied to their Electric bills and most are on the Matching payment program. We have been seeing some extremely high electric bills for some residents at the Heights. Their heat is generated by a heat pump which runs on electricity. We have asked residents with these high bills to inform the Heights management. Heights management is looking into the issues.

3) Along with Bobby Buch, in an effort to address the growing concern with hoarding, we have just begun to organize an official collaboration aptly titled, **Darien Safer Homes Project**. The preliminary mission statement is:

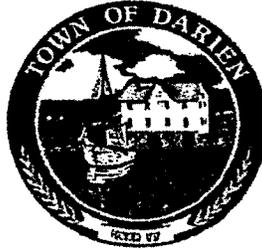
Our mission is to provide support, guidance and referral to individuals and their families who are dealing with extreme clutter and hoarding issues. To this end, engaging other town and community resources to help resolve these issues to the best and safest possible outcome.

4) **Renters Rebate** applications are now being accepted through 10/1/15. Individuals who are 65 and older or disabled and collecting Social Security Disability payments may be eligible. Applicant's income must not exceed \$34,600 if they are single, \$42,200 if they are a married couple.

5) **"Ask the Social worker"** continues to be a successful collaboration with the Senior Center. Inta Adams or Ali Ramsteck are available every Wednesday at 11 am to meet with seniors to discuss government benefits, town services or any matters of concern. We repeatedly remind our seniors to beware of the variety of scams via phone, mail and internet.

6) **Medicare Savings Program** applications have been processed by DSS rather quickly recently, a pleasant surprise. The issues continue that the paperwork accompanying the notification is confusing and inconsistent. Most often the seniors that we have assisted in applying, need help deciphering the information.

TOWN OF DARIEN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TOWN HALL, 2 RENSRAW ROAD
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT 06820
TELEPHONE (203) 656-7328
FAX (203) 656-7486



OLIVE J. HAUSER
DIRECTOR
ohauser@darienct.gov
INTA V. ADAMS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
iadams@darienct.gov
ALEXANDRA RAMSTECK
CASE MANAGER
aramsteck@darienct.gov

March 31, 2015

Dear Renter:

We have begun the process of taking applications for the Rental Rebate program.
Eligibility requirements are:

1. Must have been 65 years of age as of December 31, 2014 or disabled and collecting Social Security Disability payments.
2. One year or more residency in Connecticut.
3. Income must not exceed \$34,600 for a single person or \$42,200 for a married couple.
4. Disabled persons under age 65 must show proof of Social Security Disability.
5. If you filed a 2014 income tax return, a copy is required.
6. Proof of income must include **all** forms from **Social Security, pensions, interest on bank accounts, dividends, and wages**. For those receiving Social Security, we must have a copy of your 1099 Form.

We will also need proof of rent and utilities for **all 12 months** or, the months you were renting in 2014. Printout from utility company, landlord, and receipt of payment or canceled checks are acceptable.

The Renters Rebate program runs from April 1, 2015 through October 1, 2015, so there is plenty of time to gather your documentation.

Please call us at 203-656-7328 for an appointment or questions.

Very truly yours,

Darien Human Services