

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair, Jennifer Geddes, Arden Anderson-Broecking, Ray Slavin, Mary McCarthy, Amy Squyres

STAFF: Olive Hauser, Darien Human Services Director

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Pankowski said that a recording of the meetings would now be available on the Internet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

July 15, 2015

**** MS. ANDERSON-BROECKING MOVED THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2015.
** MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

HUMAN SERVICES REPORT.

Ms. Hauser presented her report to the Commissioner. (See attached).

Ms. Hauser reported that there were numerous reports of residents who had difficulty with DSS processing applications. Ms. Hauser said that her department had spoken with someone in DSS about these lengthy delays and lost paperwork.

Person 2 Person needs food for distribution because of the program changes with the Stamford Food Bank. Person 2 Person needs items with protein, and ones that have shelf life and staples. Ms. Hauser said the program allows the residents to come in and choose the items they need.

Mr. Pankowski asked what could be done by the Commission for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas outreaches. Ms. Hauser said that the department works closely with Person 2 Person to provide Thanksgiving baskets. Gift cards from Shoprite and Stop N Shop are appreciated.

Ms. Hauser said that the department had provided 147 backpacks for the Back to School program to Darien residents. There are those people who have been surprised to discover that there are residents who would need this type of resource. Discussion followed.

Ms. Hauser said that she would like to thank Ms. Geddes for all she does with Calvary Baptist Church to keep the housekeeping closet stocked.

MATHER CENTER REPORT.

No report.

OLD BUSINESS.

Ms. Anderson presented her report on the Old Town Homes project to the Commission.

She mentioned that she had called the management to change a hallway light that she could not reach. Ms. Squyres said that the residents could call At Home in Darien to ask someone to come out. Ms. Hauser said that she would be careful about chores in the Heights because changes should be done through Human Services. Mr. Pankowski asked for the definition of a "chore" within this context. Ms. Squyres said that something that requires specialized knowledge.

Mr. Pankowski requested that the link to At Home in Darien be included in the minutes along with the Human Services phone number. He noted that the Human Services Department was a valuable resource because if the department can't provide the service or resource, they can often refer them to those who can.

At Home: website – www.athomeindarien.org
Email - gina@athomeindarien.org.

Darien Human Services: 203-656-7328

Mr. Pankowski said that he was still waiting to hear if there was a decision about Edgerton Street. Until the Board of Education indicates what they intend to do with the property, no decisions will be made about having affordable housing on the parcel. Ms. Hauser said that there has been an increase in inquiries about Clock Hill and any other affordable housing from residents.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. ANDERSON-BROECKING MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Commission On Aging
September 16, 2015
Olive Hauser, Director Darien Human Services

- The Energy Assistance program has begun. Notices have gone out to all previous energy clients. Notices will be put in the newspaper and their websites.
- Renter's Rebate for the Elderly and the Disabled will continue through October 1st.
- Medicare checkup and Medicare Part D sign up begins October 15th and ends December 7th.
- Ali and I met with Terri Wood about the problems that clients have had with DSS. She has promised to look into the issues we discussed and a solution we offered.
- We have begun to plan for our holiday programs.