

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 16, 2014**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jennifer Geddes, Acting Chair; Gerri Genovese, Mary McCarthy,  
Amy Squyres

**STAFF:** Olive Hauser, Human Services Director; Beth Paris, Senior  
Center Director

**OTHERS:** First Selectman Jamie Stevenson

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Ms. Geddes called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was not present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

Due to the lack of quorum, these will be tabled to next meeting.

**HUMAN SERVICES REPORT.**

Ms. Hauser presented her report. (See attached.)

Ms. Squyres asked about the status of the Baskets for the Seniors program. Ms. Hauser said that the department knows the seniors, so the department includes suggestions.

First Selectman asked about the status of the Back to School program. Ms. Hauser listed the types of basic school supplies that the program would like to have donated. She added that last year, 90 students had received a Payless coupon for shoes. There are some financial requirements for enrolling in the program.

**SENIOR CENTER REPORT.**

Ms. Paris presented her report (See Attached).

Ms. Paris said that the move has happened and about 75% of the furniture has been moved into place. The inspection for the stove hood is scheduled for Friday. If the hood does not pass inspection, the Center will not be able to offer lunches until it does, but the Center will open on the 21st.

Ms. Paris read a list of people who contributed to the project. Ms. Stevenson said that the staff had been working together beautifully.

*First Selectwoman Stevenson left the meeting at 9:17 a.m.*

Ms. Geddes said that Ms. Paris had done a fabulous job. Ms. Paris said that if anyone would like to come in to help with the Seniors on Monday in terms of showing people around, it would be welcomed. The Grand Opening is scheduled for September 22nd. There will be a program both in the morning and the evening. Discussion followed.

Ms. Squyres asked about town employees participating in the Senior Luncheon program. Ms. Paris said that for the time being, the town employees have been asked not to come for the luncheon until the Center has a better understanding of the numbers of Seniors that will be participating. There are also budgetary concerns.

Ms. Squyres said that she would second the praise for Mr. Campbell since this would not have been possible without all his hard work.

### **OLD BUSINESS.**

Ms. Squyres asked about status of the At Home In Darien program. Ms. Hauser said that the group was all settled in their new offices and the Internet had been connected.

Ms. Squyres said that the transportation program, formerly known as Gallivant, is up and running. The new program has an expanded coverage area. Ms. Squyres said that she had been asked to spread the word about the program to doctors, dentists and physical therapists. Ms. Squyres said that if anyone knows someone who would benefit from a shopper and chore helper they should contact the program coordinator.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

The discussion moved to the impact of taxes and reevaluation on the seniors.

There will be no meeting in August.

### **ADJOURNMENT.**

Ms. Geddes adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

Town of Darien  
Commission on Aging  
Regular Meeting  
July 16, 2014

Commission on Aging Meeting  
July 16, 2014  
Human Services Report

- The Heights is basically full and a ribbon cutting ceremony took place on July 1, 2014. Ina Adams attended. Many of the units finished last have become home to seniors. We have heard from some asking about programs.
- We're excited about the Senior Center opening on the 21<sup>st</sup> and have spoken to Beth about having specific times, in addition to just dropping by, to be there for seniors to ask questions and to help with Medicare Part D and Medicare Saving Plans.
- There are several new seniors at senior housing and we are planning an information meeting and social gathering for the early fall.
- We are moving into our Back to School and holiday planning mode. We will be looking again for volunteers who would like to put together a gift basket for a senior.
- Renter's Rebate is going along smoothly and will continue throughout September. We will be sending out reminder notices to those who have not yet come in.
- The state and federal Energy Assistance Program will begin in some towns by August first, we hold off until September 15<sup>th</sup> to begin. The problem is we have not heard officially where we will be sending our applications for certification. Rumor has that it will be to ABCD in Bridgeport but we have not yet received any direction from the state. I have e-mailed Bob Duff, Carlo Leone, Terrie Wood and David Fracarelli in Hartford. Bob and Terrie have promised to look into it but neither Carlo nor David has yet to reply.

Respectfully submitted,  
Olive Hauser  
Director

9/22/14  
STAFF OPERATIONS  
MEETING  
EVENING

## Commission on Aging Report

Darien Senior Program at

Mather Center

July 17, 2014

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Director

The main charge of this month has been the move. Senior Program staff packed and unpacked the entire contents of 30 Edgerton. The actual movers were incredible efficient Meyer Moving Company were with us the first 2 days of the move. The week of July 14 staff invited certain seniors to come and assist in the set up and organization of rooms... As there were further construction projects to be completed and other tasks to be done in the building we were not able to open to the public in total until Monday July 21<sup>st</sup>.

There is also some work ahead to coordinate building attendant shifts throughout the day. As all these positions are part time it is more of a task. Attendants after 3:30 are coordinated through Parks and Recreation as is the scheduling and rental of rooms from 3:30-9:00. There is a curfew on the building of 9:00. Public Works staff will be responsible for any building issues or concerns.

Time has been spent coordinating the use of the building and our current programming. We expect this to be a work in progress for a few months until we really "learn" the building...

Phone calls were taken by well over 300 seniors in this time looking for updates and to express their support for the process. Quite a few folks took on calling program participants for updates as well which was quite helpful.

This had been an amazing undertaking...Jayme Stevenson checked in on us daily, Sue Swiatek offered suggestions for building organization and coordination for scheduling purposes; Pat Darinzo DPW has been checking in on various systems including air conditioning and elevator; Jim Flynn P&R has made a few trips back to the 30 Edgerton Site; Olive Hauser and her staff for making visits of support, encouragement and calm; George Areola from Information Systems has been working tirelessly not only to get the office up and running but the computer room as well; Dave Campbell has been overseeing every aspect of this venture and currently getting the wood shop ready for repairs...

And of course the Senior Program staff of 4 part timers and 2 full pulled their weight and then some. I saw more tireless and conscientious effort than I can adequately describe. I am so proud to be working with these individuals. We are grateful to everyone who worked, advocated, championed and struggled to get Mather Center to become a reality and the new home of Senior Programs. Special thanks to our Commission on Aging; Building Committee and all the residents who support quality of life for the Seniors of Darien!

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support Group: not held  
Caregiver Options Counseling: 3  
Referrals to Human Services : 5  
At Home Darien Assist: 7  
Program Days July: 12

**Highlighted Programs for July:**

1<sup>st</sup> Historical U.S.S. Constitution –Historical Series w Art Gottlieb LCSW  
2<sup>nd</sup> Celebrate Independence Day w entertainment Bob Gianotti  
4<sup>th</sup> CLOSED for Independence Day  
7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> **CLOSED for the Move**  
21<sup>st</sup>: Alumni Swing Band  
22<sup>nd</sup> Author John Cilio “Women of World War II”  
23<sup>rd</sup> Amanda Geffner “Let’s Talk”  
25<sup>th</sup> Ask a Lawyer  
29<sup>th</sup> Stamford Hospital Complimentary Lunch & Learn: Senior Eye Health

**Ongoing Works in Progress:**

Move-organization of Mather  
Setting up Darien Senior Program as a Department  
Integrations and Orientation of Public to the new facility  
Program Room Assignments  
Policy Development

**Building Issues:**

Orientation of use and systems- Department of Public Works will be responsible for all aspects of building functions –senior program staff will report concerns and changes....