

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 18, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Ron Heinbaugh, Mary McCarthy, Robin Woods, Amy Squyres, Gerri Genovese (9:07 a.m.)

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

OTHERS: First Selectmen Jamie Stevenson

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was not present.

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT.

Ms. Paris presented her report (See Attached). She said that there is a great deal going on with the upcoming move on July 7th. The last lunch program had 88 attendees. The Center will be opening on July 14th.

Ms. Genovese joined the meeting 9:07 a.m. A quorum was now present.

Ms. Paris said that there is a major 4th of July program planned for the seniors. This will be the last hurrah for the Edgerton facility.

Maps of the Mather Center have been made for the seniors. Right now there will need to be two people at the desk so that one person can sign people in and the other one can guide the people to the appropriate program locations. Volunteers would be appreciated. Ms. Genovese has been working on this aspect.

Ms. Stevenson then announced that she had promoted Ms. Paris to Director of Senior Programs. Ms. Stevenson said that she wanted to thank Ms. Paris for all the hard work. She added that Ms. Swiatek also deserved thanks for all the work in coordinating this project. Mr. Pankowski said that Ms. Paris had been able to pick up where the last director left off and done a wonderful job. He said that Ms. Paris and Ms. Swiatek made a wonderful dynamic duo. Mr. Heinbaugh said that the transition was seamless. Ms. Paris said that she appreciated the fact that her family was involved in carpentry, electrical work and plumbing. Ms. Genovese thanked Ms. Paris for the support when her mother developed Alzheimer's.

Ms. Squyres asked if Ms. Paris would still have the same relationship with the Commission now that she has been appointed Director. Ms. Paris said that she would.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

May 21, 2014 Meeting.

**** MS. SQUYRES MOVED THE MAY 21, 2014 MEETING.**

**** MS. MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE MAY 21, 2014 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HUMAN SERVICES.

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

Ms. Hauser said that she had just received a report from the Legal Assistant Resources Center of Connecticut. She distributed copies of the document to the Commission members.

Ms. Stevenson said that an upcoming emergency management exercise would allow the staff to use a new software program that would allow communications between various authorities.

Mr. Pankowski asked what the status of the Town Hall generator. Ms. Stevenson said that the Town was working on applying for a grant to install a generator. She pointed out that the Town is required to have several designated shelters into different locations.

OLD BUSINESS.

Mr. Pankowski thanked Ms. Woods for her work on the Building Committee. He strongly encouraged people to tour the Edgerton Street facility in order to understand why this new facility project was so important. Ms. Squyres suggested that perhaps this should be brought to the attention of the newspapers. Ms. Woods said that it is important to remember that the energy use will drop and that the infrastructure

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. GENOVESE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Town of Darien
Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting
June 18, 2014

Commission on Aging Report

Darien Senior Activities Center

June 18, 2014

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris Coordinator

We are presenting and implementing our last scheduled Programs for 30 Edgerton Street this month. We have been given a tentative moving week of July 7th for a week to closure to reopen Monday July 14th. Waiting for final word and containers from the Movers to get things underway.

Fortunate not to have cancelled too many special programs and hope to be geared up for specials for the remaining months. Formal open house has been scheduled for September 22nd with a day full of activities and information and then a visit from the RTM at 7:00 pm for a tour. Staff is still planning the event and we would hope that everyone involved in the planning, implantation and seeing this project through to reality will be there for appreciation ceremony in the morning...more details to follow and of course open to any suggestions you might have for this event...

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support Group: 6

Caregiver Options Counseling : 8

Referrals to Human Services: 7

At Home in Darien Assists: 8

Program Days for June: 21

Highlighted Programs for June:

2nd Blood Pressures

2nd 4th 9th 16th 18th 23rd Matter of Balance Program with Fairfield University Nursing Program

3rd Twin Towers with Art Gottlieb LCSW

4th Bonnie Liedner Piano Styling's

10th Vein Health Center Diagnostic presentation and screenings

11th Ct Pharmacy present: Skin Care and Skin Protection

12th Cookie Martini discusses "365 Words of Wisdom"

16th Walgreens Pharmacy presents: Cholesterol and Blood Pressure"

17th Stamford Hospital Complimentary Lunch and Learn' GI Issues in Aging PART 2

17th Caregiver Educational Support Group

18th 25th Let's Talk with Amanda Geffner from Family Centers

19th "Sweet Summer Memories" with Geri Genovese

19th BINGO with Pam James

Ongoing Works in Progress

Preparation and Organization for Move

Monthly Newsletter and Stats

Finalizing Instructors notice and class changes

Staff Performance Evaluations

Quarterly Report Preparation

Building Issues: Ledges at entrances all sinking; stair trends coming up are crumbling further have put parking cones on stairs with warning signs...

Meetings Attended: Performance Evaluations with Staff; SWCAA Advisory Board Meeting June 11th; COA Meeting June 18th;

Commission on Aging Meeting

Human Services Report

June 18, 2014

- The **Connecticut Needs Social Services Programs** report for 2014 authored by the Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut, Inc. compares all the towns and cities in CT regarding population, percentage of poverty and a number of important state programs. Darien is reported to have 5.20% of its residents living in poverty. This is double the percentage of New Canaan and Wilton and higher even than Westport. Handout.
- There will be an **Emergency Management** exercise on June 23rd which will simulate a direct hit by a category 2 hurricane. The simulation will run most of the day at the Emergency Management Center in the Police Department. A week out and we have already begun to receive long range forecasts and reporting the steps we have begun to take. All essential services will be present, as well as a representative of CL&P. We will be in direct and continuous contact with the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as well as other towns and cities. We have updated our Emergency Tips flyer. Handout.
- **The Heights** is 90% full according to the management. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 1st at 12:30p. A number of seniors have moved into the one bedroom units that have newly opened. There also new residents at senior housing. We are planning to hold an informational meeting there soon.
- **Renter's Rebate** is underway and the legislature has signed the bill into law which allows the program to return to the 2012 standards.
- **NEON**, the Norwalk/Stamford poverty agency through whom our energy assistance program flows through has officially closed and has filed for bankruptcy. For now energy issues will be addressed by ABCD in Bridgeport. Hopefully that will change before September when the new

season begins. We will be talking to Bob Duff, Terrie Wood and Carlo Leone about this issue.

- Ali and Inta attended an **in-service** on hoarding and found it very informational and helpful. Hoarding is defined as a mental health disorder in the new DSM 5. It is incurable but can be managed with ongoing support and monitoring, if the individual is willing and wants to work for a change. People often show signs of the disorder early in their lives.
- We have already begun to start planning for our **Back to School and Holiday programs**. We anticipate an increase in our numbers served in all programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Olive Hauser