

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Mary McCarthy, Jennifer Geddes, Thomas Valentino, Ray Slavin, Robin Woods (9:38 a.m.)

STAFF: Anthony Hormicki, Tax Assessor; Sue Swiatek, Parks and Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. A quorum was not present.

SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT.

Ms. Hauser was not present. A copy of her report will be submitted to Mr. Pankowski and attached to the minutes.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris was not present. A copy of her report will be submitted to Mr. Pankowski and attached to the minutes. Ms. Swiatek stopped in briefly to say she would be available if the Commission had any questions.

Mr. Slavin reported that Mr. Heinbaugh had been involved in a fairly serious car accident last week. Mr. Pankowski said that he would check in with Mr. Heinbaugh.

OLD BUSINESS.

Tax Relief

Mr. Pankowski asked if everyone had received his email about the Tax Abatement. He said that when he had watched video it was clear the Board of Finance was not very receptive to the Commission's proposal on tax relief. He gave an overview of his thoughts and impressions on this. Mr. Hormicki was available to answer any questions for the Commissioners.

The main issue is that Darien has significant participation in the tax relief plan -- more than 170 homeowners received \$582,060.49 in tax relief in 2011. This is up from 153 homeowners receiving \$452,243.18 in 2010. Darien uses a "formula clause" rather than a straight payment approach, resulting in more tax relief for our town's seniors than they would find in nearby towns. Discussion followed about the reasons that seniors remain in their homes and how that affects the finances.

Edgerton St. Property

Ms. Geddes reported that she had heard that the Senior Center budget was going to be cut. She then updated everyone on the information and the importance of having Ms. Paris kept in the information loop.

Ms. Woods joined the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Ms. Woods said that the construction was moving forward regarding the Board of Education move to Leroy. Value engineering is now underway on that project. March 28th is the current projected completion date for the Leroy facility.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES.

Minutes of December 19, 2012.

The following correction was noted:

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE**: please add: Ray Slavin

**** MS. GEDDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2012 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS CONT'D.

Edgerton St. - The discussion then briefly moved back to the decisions that the Board of Education will be making regarding the Edgerton property.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. VALENTINO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Town of Darien
Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting
January 16, 2013

**Darien Senior Activities Center
Commission on Aging Report**

January 16, 2013

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

Membership Renewal is under way at the Center. As of last quarter our membership is 503 Darien, 226 Non- Resident. We are steadily increasing membership through program, entertainments and screening services being provided. As we move into 2013 we are looking into more partnerships and collaborations to further our offerings especially in the areas of health and wellness.

We are also encouraging folks to fill out the 2013 Program Survey. It has been designed with the Mather's Community Center in mind. As we go forth into the future and the impending move it will be important for scheduling purposes to arrange the activities and programs as close to what they are right now as we can get. This survey is one page and more of a check sheet with comments to be added at the end. We are hoping to get a larger sampling this year. We are actually handing it out to folks that fit the demographic and our Residents of Darien-not necessary to be a present member of the Senior Center.

Budget Sessions are underway and Sue and Beth have presented a budget that reflects being in both buildings-anticipated move date is not certain –approximate November 2013 but subject to change. But budget has been based on this.

Fairfield University Matter of Balance will be Mondays beginning February 25th 9:30-11:30 for 8 weeks....

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support Group: 8

Caregiver Options Counseling: 7

Referrals to Human Services: 5

EMS Calls: 0

AIP+Gallivant: Assist: 15

Ongoing works in progress: Budget details

Newsletter

Program Planning Spring/Summer

Catalogue Preparation for Parks and Recreation

Building Use Mothers

Statistics

Trend Research

January Highlights: 1st: Closed New Year's Day

2nd: Bonnie Leidner entertains "Musical Resolutions"

4th AARP Chapter 972 Meeting

7th Blood Pressure Screening

9th Coastal Orthopedics presentation "shoulder-range of motion/pain

15th Hoot Owls Entertain

15th Caregiver Educational Support Group
17th BINGO Plus with Pam James
18th Ask a Lawyer
21st CLOSED Martin Luther King Holiday
22nd Darien Library Beyond Books Program
29th Lunch& Learn Understanding Hospice
29th Poking Fun at Getting Older-Cookie Martini

Building Issues: No Heat on January 7th furnace would not fire. Was resolved by the 8th may have been form new part installation. Checking boiler room area daily. New part has been installed that will measure outside temperature and regulate the temperature throughout building,

Meetings: Budget Workshops on 3rd,7th,11th. ;3rd Lifetime Learners Norwalk Community College; 8th Companion& Homemaker Meeting; 9th SWCAA Advisory Board; 10th Senior Center Director's Meeting, 14th AIP+Gallivant Advisory Board Meeting; 16th , COA Meeting: