

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

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Ron Heinbaugh, Tom Valentino, Amy Squyres, Robin Woods, Gerri Genovese (9:11 a.m.)

STAFF: Olive Hauser, Human Services

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

September 18, 2013.

**** MS. GEDDES MOVED THE MINTUES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 MEETING.**

**** MR. HEINBAUGH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT.

Mr. Pankowski explained that Ms. Paris was unable to attend the meeting and proceeded to read Ms. Paris' report to the committee. (See Attached)

Mr. Pankowski then updated everyone on the status of the elevator, which is currently 30 years old. Ms. Woods said that from what she understands from the Building Committee that it is passenger elevator and will be updated to meet code.

Ms. Hauser joined the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Discussion regarding the elevator followed.

Ms. Genovese joined the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Ms. Squyres had several questions about the whether the elevator was the responsibility of the Public Works Department. Ms. Hauser commented that the elevator in the Town Hall is the same age, has already been rebuilt twice and frequently is out of order. The one that would service the Mather Center will be used on a daily basis. She suggested that perhaps the Town should investigate possible grants or other funding sources to cover the cost of new elevator.

Ron reminded everyone that Ms. Paris had previously expressed concerns about having seniors stuck in the elevator. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pankowski said that he had been made aware that there was a discussion that wood shop participants would be building shelves for the wood shop. Ms. Wood said that Mr. McFarland had addressed this and the shelving should be done by the contractors, not the seniors. Ms. Woods said that she thought it was time for a sit down discussion with the Building Committee to address a number of concerns. Discussion followed.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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

OLD BUSINESS.

There was no additional old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no additional new business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. WOODS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. GEDDES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Darien Senior Activities Center
Commission on Aging Report
October 16, 2013
Respectfully Submitted, Beth Paris Coordinator

October programming is being widely received and attended. A new Feldenkrais class started with 14 participants from the start. Hosted Post 53 CPR-AED training and Hands-Only CPR. Information Session from SWCAA regarding Medicare Part D and Connecticut Pharmacy Eye Health Program were welcome. Later in the month Walgreens Pharmacy will present a program on immunizations offered to Seniors and John Miceli of Miceli Insurance Co. Will offer an Information Session on the original Medicare Parts A,B & C, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Supplements and Medigap plans. Octobers Flu Clinic had over 40 participants. Stamford Hospital Lunch and Learn "Diabetes Education Management". Matter of Balance Program facilitated by Fairfield University Nursing Students filled for 8 week course. Darien Garden Club started their monthly themed flower arranging program-sign-up sheet fill up fast for this program. Also we have had a "Craft In" every Wednesday from 9:30 -2:00 making items for the Gift Shop timeless creations. We are also knitting hats, gloves and scarves for Human Services Holiday Program.

Musical entertainments this month included Oktoberfest-Schnitzelbank; Karen Wagner Sings Broadway; Blue Notes. And of course a Halloween celebration complete with a costume competition....

Also interviewing taking place to replace our Clerk/Receptionist; meetings regarding Mather's operations, furniture needs, scheduling and programs.

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support Group: 8

Caregiver Options Counseling: 10

Referrals to Human Services: 4

At Home In Darien Assists: 12

Highlighted Programs for October:

1st Historical Series: Stalingrad w Art Gottlieb LCSW

2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th Matter of Balance w Fairfield University Nursing Students

3rd BINGO Plus with Pam James

4th CPR-AED class with Post 53

4th AARP Meeting

7th Blood Pressure

8th FLU Clinic Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Fairfield County

9th Garden Club

9th Connecticut Pharmacy "Eye Health" presentation

9th SWCAA Medicare Part D presentation Chris Crain

10th Life Long Therapeutics

14th CLOSED Columbus Day

15th Darien Library Presents "The Golden Age of Advertising"

15th Caregiver Support Group "Conversations about driving"
16th October Fest w Frank Billowitz
17th Halloween Iris Card Folding Craft
17th Karen Wagner Sings Broadway
18th Ask a Lawyer
21st Walgreen Pharmacist presents "Immunizations for Seniors"
22nd Blue Notes Sing
23rd Happy Everything w Cookie Martini
28th Understanding Medicare-John Miceli
29th Lunch and Learn w Stamford Hospital- Diabetes Education & Management
31st Halloween Celebration

Building Issues:

Testing Boiler for the season; automatic water feeder to boiler malfunctioned –has been serviced we now have heat.

Meetings Attended: 7 interviews conducted for receptionist/clerk position; October 8th Furniture Rep Meeting; October 17th SWCAA Annual Meeting; Weekly Meetings w/Sue Swaitek regarding Mather's Senior Center Programming Space needs

Commission on Aging Meeting

October 16th, 2013

Olive Hauser

- The Renter's Rebate program has closed. We are down from last year and will continue to lose applicants through attrition until the program ends because of that.
- Energy Assistance Applications are being taken and we are quite busy with them. We are also beginning to get requests for fuel deliveries before the program is able to pay for them. We will be using our Darien fuel Bank, a grant through the Community Fund or Salvation Army monies to pay for these requests. Our requests for fuel are up and coming in earlier than previous years.
- Ali and Inta went to an update/training on Medicare Part D and have begun to make appointments. Applications for the program or changes to can be taken from October 15th through December 7th.
- I went to an Operation Fuel training and annual overview. We anticipate using this program to help supplement client's fuel needs. This program allows for a higher income and does not have an asset test.
- Ali will attend a CL&P training today to review the programs they have to help low income clients.
- Construction continues on the Heights. There has been a change in direct management, Ford Gardner has been replaced but we have not yet his replacement.
- We continue to work with seniors who are living in less than desirable conditions. These cases are both complicated and time consuming.
- We continue planning for the holidays.