

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE:** Joe Pankowski, Chair; Mary McCarthy, Amy Squyres, Thomas Valentino, Ron Heinbaugh, Pat Morgan

**STAFF:** Olive Hauser, Social Work Director; Beth Paris, Senior Center Director; Sue Swiatek, Parks and Recreation Director

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES.**

**May 16, 2012.**

**\*\* MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2012 MEETING.**

**\*\* MS. MORGAN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2012 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**April 18, 2012.**

It was noted that due to the fact that there was no quorum at the May meeting, the April minutes needed to be approved.

**\*\* MS. SQUYRES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2012 MEETING.**

**\*\* MS. MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2012 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT**

Ms. Hauser then presented her report to the Committee.

Ms. Hauser said the rent rebate has started and is moving forward smoothly. The deadline date for applications is September 15, 2012.

There has been a slight increase in the interest by the younger seniors in moderate price housing at Clock Hill.

Case Manager Ali Romsteck has completed her training to be a CHOICES advisor. There are now two Social Services staff members who are qualified to assist the elderly in insurance issue. Both Ali and Inta are very knowledgeable regarding Medicare, Medicare Part D, Medical Savings Plans, Medicaid and MediGap insurance. Their assistance in this area is available to all seniors regardless of income.

The Senior Directory is undergoing a major facelift and reformatting. It will be larger and include additional information such as housing; services, programs and activities. Other organizations including the YMCA, YWCA and the DCA will also be contributing. There will be a page on the Senior Center and also a sample calendar page. The information is being updated and will highlight programs of particular use for the Seniors. It is hoped that the updated Directory will be ready by January.

Discussions about fuel assistance have already started, particularly regarding the difficulties that were experienced last year. Ms. Hauser then outlined the steps and costs associated with the Town taking responsibility for entering the applications into the system directly.

The Registrars of Voters are looking forward people to work in the polls in both August and November. Anyone interested should contact Tom Dunn.

### **SENIOR CENTER REPORT.**

The Kick Off To The Summer Bash was enjoyed by all and it was well attended. The First Annual Bingo Extravaganza on June 11th was also well attended. There were 32 sponsors who donated prizes. The raffle for the donated netbook also went extremely well. It is hoped that this will become an annual fund raising event for the Senior Center.

The June 18th New Orleans Themed Luncheon with members of the Alumni Swing Band had 68 participants. The band had such a great time they want to come back again during the summer. There have been seven new programs that have become on going courses in the last quarter.

The Darien Police will be presenting programs on several scams that are targeting seniors. The first program will be on June 25th at 12:30 p.m. A new scam involves young people knocking on doors claiming to be working on a school project. It will be important to be aware of all of these scames and know what resources are available.

Ms. Paris then updated the Commission on recent program changes and said that in the last few months, seven different activites have become ongoing programs.

Fairfield University will be allowing some of their Master's students to hold a balance awareness program. These are well supervised. Balance is critical to the well being of seniors and often is a factor in serious falls.

The monthly care givers group is growing. There are also some long distance care givers who are inquiring about the program.

### SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Mr. Pankowski said that the Shuffle has gotten all the approvals needed.

Ms. Swiatek then spoke about the variety of programs that are currently underway. She said that it would be important to think ahead. There are many key questions about how the new facility will operate, such as who will open the doors, who will be allowed to use it, when will it close, and when will it be cleaned. There are also concerns about asset liabilities, such as a computer lab or the wood shop, which needs to consider. All of these questions need to be discussed so that when the space is assigned, it will be clearer as to what needs to be where when.

Now, that the approvals have been secured, Parks and Recreation will be responsible for the space. Ms. Swiatek said that she needs the guidance from the Commission on Aging on how to facilitate this.

Ms. Squyres asked whether the agreement that was approved was the same as the one that originally submitted. This will be checked. Ms. Swiatek said that she has been begging for square footage for the new facility so that some of the dedicated spaces (art room, kitchen, computer lab) etc. can be assigned.

Ms. Squyres said that it was important to remember that the programs are growing. It will be important to have flexibility in the scheduling. Ms. Swiatek agreed and pointed out that there were numerous Seniors who are still employed and want some programs in the evening. Ms. Squyres said that it would be important to let the Selectmen know that the programs are growing and that there may have been changes in the original plan that reduces the amount of space dedicated to the Seniors. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pankowski pointed out that it seems that the basic question is the use of the building after 3 p.m. Since the programs have increased, the Seniors should have priorities. From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Seniors will be using the building exclusive. Ms. Swiatek said that it would be important to have that in writing. When it comes to the after 3 p.m. usage, there will need to be a policy so that the Senior programs will have some flexibilities.

The discussion then moved to whether the Senior programs should end at 3 p.m. Ms. Swiatek said that there were two considerations, one being staffing and the second being time to clean.

Mr. Pankowski asked what the Commission could do for Ms. Swiatek in regards to suggestions for the proposed memorandum. In the summer of 2013, the move will take place. Therefore, it is critical to have the policy set by the fall. Discussion about the policy then followed. Some of the early decisions will drive the budget, such as how many custodians, which spaces will be locked and not available to the general public.

Timing and usage will need to be set first. When the shuffle takes place, the Seniors will be the priority. Once the general policy is set, then Parks and Rec can back into the terms of who can use what when. The fitness center, computer lab and woodworking shop will be off limits to the general public.

It was pointed out that there were zoning issues on the current Senior Center and also zoning restrictions on the use of Town Hall. Ms. Paris pointed out that currently, the team that was at the Senior Center did everything from moving furniture, bucketing leaks and dealing with boilers. She asked if it would be possible to have a set six months when it was just the Senior programs so that it would be possible to ascertain the use of the space. Ms. Swiatek pointed out that this was the policy with the new building at Weed Beach. She asked that the Commissioners send her their thoughts on the memo and any changes they might wish to include.

Mr. Heinbaugh pointed out that there was a reporter from News Review present and thanked him for attending.

#### **OLD BUSINESS.**

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS.**

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT.**

- \*\* MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MS. MCCARTHY SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

## **Commission on Aging Report**

Darien Senior Activities Center

**June 20, 2012**

Respectfully submitted: Beth Paris Coordinator

June is calendar has many entertaining and new Programs and Activities. **Kick of to Summer Bash** enjoyed **58** folks enjoying the barbecue and other folks joining in for the wonderful entertainment **Bob Gianotti** provided for a total of **71** folks-there was much dancing and song participation. On June 11<sup>th</sup> we held our first annual **BINGO Extravaganza** with **32 sponsors** offering, gifts, gift cards and services as prizes. Prizes range from \$ \$20.00-\$100.00 including a raffle prize of a Net Book. With a little investment this time we are hoping this will be one of the annual fund raising events we hold yearly. **100** folks attended and staff learned allot regarding organizing, enlisting help and the process the day of the event. On June 18<sup>th</sup> we held a **New Orleans Themed Luncheon** with members of the **Alumni Swing Band** entertaining **68** folks participated.

Marcy & Beth have met with the **Darien Police Department** who will do a series of **Safety Seminars** throughout the year specifically for Seniors regarding scams that target them and basic safety measures they should be taking. First one June 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:30.

We have **moved all exercise programs** from the gym to the Movie Room for the Summer-including Ballet. **Pickle Ball** will resume in the Fall with an additional day. The **Bocce Court** is **open** and folks are scheduling games every day. With the completion of the computer room/**Wii Game** room we are looking forward to an air conditioner installation so we will be able to play throughout the year.

2- Calls for EMS this month

Caregiver inquires -8

**Monthly Caregiver Group-12**

Information & Referral to Social Services: 2

**Ongoing Work in Progress:** Building Use Meetings w/Sue regarding Mather's Building  
& Current expansion of use at the 30 Edgerton Sight  
Programs Fall/ Winter  
Parks and Recreation Fall/Winter Catalogue Submissions  
Staff Meetings  
Policy Manual Additions  
Daily Stats

**June Program Highlights:** 4<sup>th</sup> Blood Pressure

4<sup>th</sup> Norwalk Hospital Sleep Center Presentation

5<sup>th</sup> Historical Presentation: TITANIC w/Art Gottlieb LCSW

6<sup>th</sup> Coupon Cuties

7<sup>th</sup> Bingo Gathering w Pam James

11<sup>th</sup> BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA

12<sup>th</sup> & 26th Coupon Cuties

13<sup>th</sup> AARP Driving Course 10-2:30  
18<sup>th</sup> New Orleans Lunch w Alumni Swing Band  
19<sup>th</sup> Take Shape for Life  
19<sup>th</sup> Caregiver Educational Support Group  
21<sup>st</sup> Bingo Gathering w Pam James (ends until Sept)  
22<sup>nd</sup> Ask a Lawyer by Appointment  
25<sup>th</sup> Safety Talk with Darien Police Department  
28<sup>th</sup> Senior Choice at Home

**Building Issues:** Air conditioners malfunctioning in Wood Shop are looking at a repair  
Air Conditioner to be installed in newly organized Computer Space  
Hot Water heater had to be reconfigured for over ride Boiler could  
Be shut down and not depended on for Hot Water Use/rewiring done  
Boiler Room to be cleaned  
Roof Drains will be cleaned this month  
Lost Computers and phone 3 times this month due to heavy rain  
Toilet repair men's room outside of office area leaking

**Meetings Attended:** June 13<sup>th</sup> SWCAA Advisory Board Meeting; weekly meeting with  
AIP+Gallivant as needed/requested; AIP+Gallivant Advisory Meeting June 18<sup>th</sup>; Monthly  
meeting w Sue Swiatek P&R.