

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 18, 2012.**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Ron Heinbaugh, Mary McCarthy, Jennifer Geddes, Robin Woods, Amy Squyres, Tom Valentino, Geri Genovese

STAFF: Olive Hauser, Director of Social Services; Beth Paris, Senior Center Coordinator

OTHERS: Selectman David Campbell, Karl Kilduff, Town Administrator; Tony Homicki, Darien Tax Assessor, Milagros (Mili) Millan-Garcia, Assistant Tax Assessor

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and greeted everyone.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

June 20, 2012 Meeting.

Page 2, paragraph 3, line 1: please change "The Senior Directory is undergoing" to "The Senior Resource Directory is undergoing"

**** MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2012 MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

**** MS. SQUYRES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Ms. Hauser said that there will be an item on the July 23rd Darien Board Selectmen agenda regarding a change of title from Social Services to Human Services. There will also be a change in the membership terms.

Mr. Kilduff has said that when the bids come in at the end of August, the Town will be able to determine whether there will be enough funding for a new generator for the Senior Center.

Ms. Hauser is compiling a list of residents who may want a safety check during any type of town emergency. Single parents, disabled, and others who are concerned are welcomed to add their names on the list.

On July 30th and 31st, Darien will be participating in State wide emergency management drill.

As the municipal agent on Aging, Ms. Hauser is required to submit a year end report on the type of services and information requested by seniors. The report is due by the end of August but it will likely be completed by the next Commission on Aging meeting. There is a strong trend on home health services, energy assistance and housing.

Allen O'Neil had the ground breaking and should be completed sometime in 2014. There will be some apartments available for occupancy before then.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris said that she would be submitting a written report. (See attached). She distributed copies of a spreadsheet that displayed a chart showing the attendance and membership along with copies of the most recent newsletter.

DISCUSSION OF MATHER CENTER USE POLICY.

Mr. Pankowski asked Mr. Kilduff and Selectman Campbell about the generator at the Mather Center. Selectman Campbell said that there was an approval needed for 35 Leroy that would bring in \$650,000. Although it originally looked like the BOE would move in December, it now appears that the move will happen in February.

The generator is being bid as an alternate. Mr. Kilduff is looking into grants. However, there is some opposition to purchase of the generator. The intent would be to provide power for everything rather than just basic services. If this can be done, the Mather Center could be used as a cooling center. This is an important consideration as the library's generator, while relatively new, is not as strong as the staff would like.

Mr. Pankowski said that there had been a memo about the use of the Mather Center. One of the things that Ms. Swiatek came up with was a tentative plan for scheduling the Center after 3:30 p.m. Mr. Kilduff explained that there were two points that were in P&Z Land Use approval. It was approved as a senior center and that this means there could be senior programming after 3 p.m. The second item is order of priority, which would be Senior Center first; secondly, followed by Parks and Recreation and then civic groups. He went on to give an overview of who would be responsible for this. The Commission should consider the policies regarding the uses of the various spaces such as the wood shop, the kitchen, and other high investment and liability

areas. Land Use has determined that Parks and Recreation will be responsible for scheduling the use of the building. Discussion followed about this.

Ms. Squyres said that she had concerns about those who use the spaces returning the items to their proper locations. Mr. Kilduff said that this would be part of the Selectmen's discussion on how this would be handled. This may also involve having a building attendant and a fee.

Mr. Heinbaugh asked when the official name of the Center had been discussed or would be discussed. Selectman Campbell said that he liked Mather Center. Mr. Heinbaugh said that he felt it should be the Darien Senior Center. Mr. Kilduff said that ultimately it would be a Board of Selectman decision. Suggestions should be submitted to the Board. Since signage has to be done, the final name will have to be chosen by this winter. This will be discussed by the Commission in September.

**** MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED 2 PAGE USE POLICY FOR THE SENIOR CENTER.**

**** MS. SQUYRES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Homicki, the Tax Assessor came forward and distributed copies of an overview document on the Tax Relief program to those present. He then reviewed the document that included the State guidelines that the Town is required to follow for Tax Relief. The packet also included a report on the number of residents who are involved the program. Ms. Millan-Garcia, the Assistant Tax Collector said that there were 73 new applications and 45 of those qualified for either the State or Town program or both. There was also a copy of the ordinance itself that contains the formula that is used for the qualifying residents and a copy of the application. He then said that if they wished to have an adjustment, it would be helpful.

Mr. Pankowski asked if there were applicants that just missed the Town qualification by a small margin. Ms. Millan-Garcia said that she could have this information for the Commission in September. He said that he would like to go to the Selectmen with a two year plan and show them how many residents might have qualified if the requirements were slightly modified. Mr. Homicki commented that the recent mailings about the Tax Relief program had been very effective.

Mr. Kilduff pointed out that making a change such as going from a one year plan to a two year plan might require changing the ordinance. He said that he would review the ordinance and report back to Mr. Pankowski.

OLD BUSINESS.

Mr. Pankowski said that discussion continues in the paper about what will happen to Edgerton once the Senior Center vacates. Mr. Pankowski said that one group is working on putting 20 units of housing, the neighbors want a sports field there and a letter was submitted to the newspaper that wanted the space reserved for another school. He said that right now, it would be a Board of Selectman issue. However, a new school would require a Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Woods asked about the issues at the Edgerton Senior Center. Ms. Paris said that there were some issues with the air conditioning and two bathrooms have been closed down. These will be repaired during a week in August. There are additional issues with the floors sagging by the entrances and exits.

Ms. Squyres asked about the figures on the July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012 Attendance totals for the Senior Center. Ms. Paris reviewed the figures. Mr. Kilduff pointed out that the Senior Center is held to a different attendance standard than any other agency in the Town. He added that at the Library, each someone walks through the door, they are counted as a patron. The Senior Center has to differentiate the attendance by the number of unique users. Ms. Paris said that this process takes a significant amount of time to perform. Ms. Hauser said that the Social Services also uses unduplicated numbers for their units of service.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MS. SQUYRES SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

**Commission on Aging
Senior Center Report**

July 18, 2012

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

July has been a busy month so far kicking the month off with our **Independence Day Celebration Lunch, Ice cream Sundaes** and the band *Sophistication* for listening pleasure –very well attended. We had 2 Health and Wellness presentations that offered complimentary lunch each getting 32 and 35 attendees respectively. There has been allot to choose from considering the heat and very solid attendance as well.

Included in this report are the attendance numbers for the past budget year July 2011 to June 2012. We have enjoyed increase in attendance and participation across the board. A detail quarterly report was prepared for April 2012 -June 2012. Building Use and policy are still in the discussion phase.

We have has visits from grandchildren and families. Supportive/Options counseling ahs been provided 8 times to visiting children seeing changes in family members. 2 referrals to Social Services regarding insurance needs.

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support Group 14

Ongoing Work in Progress: Quarterly Report

- Statistics
- Building Use Policy
- Fall Winter Program Plans
- Staff Meetings
- AIP+Gallivant Support/Back up
- Parks and Recreation Fall/Winter Catalogue
- Newsletter

July Program Highlights: 2nd Blood Pressures

- 3rd French Literature
- 3rd Historical Presentation: WPA
- 4th CLOSED
- 5th Independence Day Celebration w Sophistications
- 9th Weighing the Facts-Health & Wellness Comp Lunch
- 10th Patriotic Program & Songs
- 16th Londoner's Memory in Pictures
- 17th Caregiver Educational Support Group
- 17th Health & Wellness w Moore Rehab
- 20th Ask a Lawyer
- 30th July Birthdays

Building Issues: 2 more Toilets leaking –needed replacement parts

Self Closure device needed for handicap bathroom per PHD

Air Conditioner Maintenance
Drain clog in Air Conditioner in Woodshop
Entrance mats wood collapsing underneath mats in 4 areas
Outside paint required on front pat ways participants trip hazard
Poison Ivy Control
Parking Lot lines need repainting especially bus area

Meetings attended: July 6th Social Services; July 16 AIP+Gallivant; Staff weekly; Parks & Recreation Weekly.