

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**

ATTENDANCE; Joe Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Mary McCarthy,
Gerri Genovese, Anne Marie Rayhill

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

OTHERS: Peter Eder, At Home in Darien.

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was not present.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES.

The minutes from the last meeting were tabled due to the lack of a quorum.

MATHER SENIOR CENTER

Ms. Paris said she had prepared an August report along with a September report. She presented her reports to the group. (See attached.)

Mr. Pankowski asked for an update on the elevator. Ms. Paris said that it is currently out of order. During August, the elevator was not used much, but now that September has arrived, the elevator is not functioning well. Ms. Paris explained that the carriage and frame were sound but the mechanicals need to be modernized. There is also the possibility that the elevator can be upgraded from a freight elevator to a passenger elevator.

Mr. Pankowski said that this was now a priority. Ms. Paris said that if the elevator is out of service, the staff are driving the attendees up to the second floor in their own vehicles. Mr. Pankowski said that he would be in touch with Ms. Paris about this. Ms. Hauser said that this issue had been mentioned at the Department Heads meeting the previous day. Both the Town Administration and the Finance Director were receptive to the information.

HUMAN SERVICES

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

Following the conclusion of Ms. Hauser's report, Mr. Pankowski said that Mr. Peter Eder had been presented as a potential candidate for the Commission. Mr. Eder will be updating the Commission members on developments involving seniors both in town and State-wide.

Mr. Eder then presented his report that covered updates for At Home in Darien, the State Commission on Children, Women & Seniors, and AARP. (See attached)

Mr. Pankowski asked Mr. Eder if he would be take the lead on what the Commission needs to be concerned about and responding to on State wide issues. Mr. Eder said that he was not sure he was the best choice. He then listed some of the key legislators that would be better resources. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McCarthy distributed copies of information on the Veteran's Exemption Information (See attached). Ms. McCarthy said that First Selectman Stevenson wants to explore this more. Mr. Pankowski suggested that this be more fully discussed at the October meeting.

Mr. Pankowski said that it was good that the issues with the elevator were being discussed by the administration.

There have been no decisions regarding the old Edgerton site.

Mr. Pankowski encouraged everyone to follow the developments of the David Genovese project and the Palmer's development.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. GENOVESE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. GEDDES SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service

Town of Darien
Commission on Aging
Regular Meeting
September 21, 2016

Commission on Aging Report

Darien Senior Programs at Mather Center

August 2016

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Director

August finds the Center busy with informal use as some classes are on hiatus until after Labor Day and others are having brief interruptions from instructor's vacations. **The Center was closed the week of August 22nd for an extensive clean.** Complaints regarding Air Conditioning efficiency on the 2nd floor exercise rooms-the Center served as a place of refuge for the extreme heat- cold beverages were offered throughout the day. Also Staff passed **first fire drill**-staff evacuated building and for the most part members were cooperative.

Staff is gearing up for an extremely busy Fall we are programmed out through November. Lots of new opportunities and tried and true favorites. Living Well/Chronic Diseases Self-Management Program Series out of Stanford University has been scheduled Tuesdays starting September 13th-November 1st. AARP Driving Courses are scheduled in September and November. Discussions are in the works pursuing a lecture series offering from Norwalk Hospital. We will once again host the Town Health Fair in October.

Darien Senior Program now has its own page on the Town Website- The Menu is now posted for the week and other pertinent programs and services in a timelier manner as well as the monthly newsletter. Membership card can be filled out online is now available. During the Summer Cleaning break research will be done regarding websites; MY Senior Center .Com a computerized check in system for daily attendance and to track program participation will be looked into. Food Survey results have been reviewed and discussed by staff some changes have already begun to be implemented i.e. more descriptive menu; more fresh vegetables; salad dressings on the side and clean up in the café delayed to 1:00.

Highlighted Classes & Programs: Sophistication Entertains; Informal groups playing Bridge; Mahjong, Kings in the Corner and Pinochle increase as well as members socializing throughout the Center

Health & Wellness: RVNA presents-Dementia: What is Normal Memory Loss-What is Not; VN & Hospice of Fairfield Country: Staying Safe and Independent in Your Home**; Walgreens Pharmacist- Healthy Eating, Healthy Aging; Good Lit Good Life with Family Centers Kelly Johnson LCSW

Educational & Informational: Art Gottlieb LCSW _ Edmund Fitzgerald; Reminisces w Geri Genovese; Brain Twisters & Teasers; Current Events Discussion; Creative Writing; Short Story Class

Creative Pursuits: Oil, Water Color, Acrylic Classes; Stain Glass; Knitting Crocheting; Themed Crafts all ongoing

Entertainments: Monday Movies; Sophistication Performs;

Commission on Aging Meeting

September 21, 2016

Human Services Report

Olive Hauser, Director

- Blight ordinance
 - A blight ordinance is in its' draft stage. The final copy will likely be going to the RTM for approval in late October.
 - Human Services mentioned often with regard to potential issues arising from the lack of income, age or disabilities.
 - This ordinance will finally give the Town a way to deal with and hopefully prevent chronic blight.
- Hoarding issues
 - The Hoarding Task force met this past week and discussed the cases and our next steps for each. Two new cases have been issued letters and follow up to those letters was discussed.
- Medicare Part D
 - Enrollment begins on October 15th and continues through December 7th. Appointments should be made as soon as possible. Waiting until the last minute is not a good idea as Ali Ramsteck is the only trained employee this year.
- Energy Assistance
 - We began taking applications on September 15th . We are working with a new agency CCAWC out of Danbury and new software this year. The program will run through the New Year. We are also taking applications for Operation Fuel and other resources as necessary.
- Holidays
 - We are getting our lists ready for the holiday season. If anyone wants to adopt a senior, let me know. If you know or any senior or anyone who needs a hand up during the holidays, please let me know.

- Flu clinics are being held beginning this week.

At the Mather Senior Center

- Thursday, Sept. 22, 9:30 to 11:30 AM
- Monday, Oct. 17th, 9:30 to 11:30 AM

In the Town Hall, Room 119

- Wednesday, October 12th, 3:00 to 5:00 PM
- "Vote & Vax" on Election Day, November 8th
from 3:00 to 7:00 PM

Take steps to protect yourself and your family today.

Be safe! Get vaccinated!