

**TOWN OF DARIEN
DARIEN COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 17, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Ron Heinbaugh, Arden Anderson-Broecking, Amy Squyres, Mary McCarthy

STAFF: Beth Paris, Mather Senior Center; Olive Hauser, Human Resources

OTHER: Ms. Anne McGuire, At Home in Darien Board President

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. There was not a quorum present. He introduced Ms. Anne McGuire, the president of the At Home in Darien Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pankowski noted that there was no quorum present. The minutes will be tabled until the next meeting unless a quorum was achieved.

MATHER SENIOR CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris presented her report. (See attached)

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT.

Ms. Hauser presented her report. (See attached)

AT HOME IN DARIEN.

Ms. McGuire said that At Home In Darien has a core service with transportation, and friendly shoppers and vetted home services. At Home also functions as an information resource. A recent strategy meeting was to clarify the original goals of At Home in Darien for the new Board Members. Ms. McGuire distributed copies of an article titled "Connecticut by the Numbers", a brochure about At Home in Darien, and a newsletter "Out & About".

Ms. Anderson-Broecking said that the Old Town Hall residents don't seem to be aware of the services of At Home in Darien. Ms. Squyres reminded everyone that the original transportation program was Gallivant but that was incorporated into At Home in Darien.

Ms. McGuire said that the group was working on creating a membership card for the seniors that would be used for discounts at local participating businesses.

The discussion returned to promoting awareness of the transportation services. Some of the ideas were refrigerator magnets and the cards for the new pockets in cell phone cases where business cards can be stored. Ms. Paris said that having the transportation utilized for "soft uses" such as social events has been a bigger challenge. Ridership has increased by 43%. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS.

Old Town Homes - Arden presented her report. (See Attached)

Mr. Pankowski reported that there were no new developments with the Edgerton property.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Pankowski adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Commission on Aging Report

Darien Senior Programs

June 17, 2015

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Director

June has been a bustling month with summer visitors already in the area. Caroline Lewis Assistant Director of the Darien Senior Activities Center for ten years was here from North Carolina and Sandy Lui who served as book keeper for over 15 years was here from Florida with his lovely wife Penny-they were very impressed by the Center but even more by the increased attendance! In addition most of the seasonal Seniors are back and some participating in programs for the first time.

BINGO Extravaganza was a HUGE success – limited to 100 participants we received donations from over 40 businesses in Darien in and around Darien. This is the first time we had folks prepay for an event 98 attended with 2 waiting in the lobby that day completing the 100. We had a volunteer team that day comprised of teenagers Young Adults to assist with this event. This event takes 3 months of hard work but so worth it!

Another 1st this month we offered 5 complimentary lunch and learns!* (all noted with *)

Kiwanis Club also met at the Center for Lunch, update on Senior Programs and tour of the Mather Center

New/Highlighted Classes: Ask a Nurse with Jennifer Geddes will be a monthly topical group which may offer one to one in the future

Health and Wellness Presentations: Ridgefield VNA-*Diabetes Overview**; Visiting Nurse & Hospice Fairfield County-*The Healthy Heart**; Ct Pharmacy – *Famous People by Disease*; Jennifer Geddes RN- *Are You Really Aware of Your Health Regime*; Stamford Hospital- *Rheumatoid Arthritis **

Educational/Informational: At Home in Fairfield County- *Where Would you Rather Be?**; Ingrid Hess GRI –*State of the Real Estate Market*** Sharon Kaplove Certified Financial Planner- *Talking with Your Children about Money*; Art Gottlieb LCSW Presents- *Model T Ford*

Entertainments: Monday Movies; Karen Wagner Sings Broadway!

Program Days: 22

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support: 5

Human Services Referral: 8

At Home in Darien: 4

Caregiver Options Counseling : 10

Mather Evening Use: 6

EMS Calls: 0

Highlighted Programs:

1st Blood Pressures

1st Ridgefield VNA presents Diabetes Care*

2nd Art Gottlieb- Model T Ford

3rd Crafts Iris Paper Folding with JoAn Jacobs

8th BINGO Extravaganza

10th Craft Iris Paper Folding Part 2 JoAn Jacobs

15th Right At Home in Fairfield County- Where Would You Rather Be?

16th Stamford Hospital Rheumatoid Arthritis *

17th Ingrid Hess GRI- State of the Real Estate Market *

19th Sharon Kaplove Financial Planner- Talking with Children About Money

22nd Movie Monday

23rd Darien Library TBA

24th Karen Wagner Sings Broadway

29th Jennifer Geddes, RN Are You Really Aware of Your Health Regime?

Ongoing Work in Progress:

Fall and Early Winter Planning

Daily Statistics

Monthly Newsletter

Resolving Budget

Working with DPW on transition from Cleaning Service to Custodian and how it relates to Building Attendants – hiring Building Attendant to replace employee that left

Working with Human Service developing a monthly discussion group that would encourage good mental health practice, healthy life review and creating positive thinking skills through the use of short stories, poems and other related reading materials

Working with Dave Knauf Health Department on upcoming Health Fair

Meetings Attended: At Home Darien Board Meeting 6/1; SWCAA Senior Center Directors 6/5/15; SWCAA Advisory Board 6/10/15;; COA meeting 6/17/15; Nomination Committee for SWCAA Board 6/22/15

Commission on Aging Meeting

Darien Human Services Report

June 17, 2015

1. In an effort to meet our outreach goals for both At Home and Human Service we made a presentation at shift change two Wednesdays in a row at the police department to highlight services available to all Darien residents but in particular seniors. We brought them a packet of materials to keep in the police cars and to hand out to residents. Peter Eder and Anne McGuire have accompanied us on these visits.

Our next outreach meetings will be with the churches in town and then other appropriate agencies.

2. Spoke with Jennifer Geddes and she and Holly Hawes from the Human Service Commission attended the last Housing Authority meeting
3. I spoke informally with Susan Cameron, chair of the Planning and Zoning commission, about some concerns I had that may or may not be addressed in the plans presented to them for the renovation of Senior Housing. I will put them in writing to her and she encouraged us to keep her updated.
4. Next week Inta is going to an in-service on anxiety and depression in seniors sponsored by the Greenwich Hospital.
5. Yesterday, Ali attended a meeting with CHFA and green engineers with Darien and other towns who are experiencing high electric bills in their low to moderate income rentals due to the use of heat pumps, geo thermal devices and other energy saving heating sources.
6. We continue to receive a number of new referrals from both the Senior Center and At Home in Darien and, of course, we continue to send referrals their way.

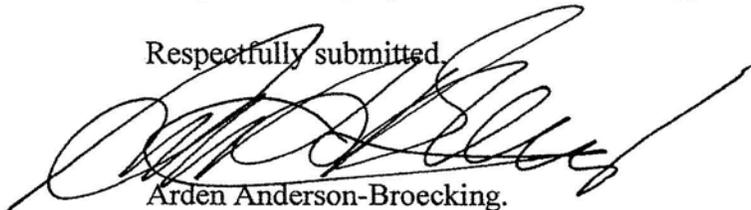
BRIEF REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON AGING 6/17/15

For the time being, events at Old Town Hall Homes have quieted down. Recent tenant and Housing Commission meetings have really revealed nothing new, There has been one very preparatory meeting with the PandZ. We have been shown the plan for the new building and if it materializes it will be a very pleasant residence. Part of the plan is to offer a few apartments at market value, and always, the rent on the apartments. The land is dedicated for senior housing and this will not change. Technically, we are at this time living in what might be called "substandard housing," inasmuch the building code has changed since 1986. For instance, the outdoor staircases, especially the metal ones, would not be permitted by today's code. There was a recent survey of the land. The new plan will eliminate the need for residents to go outside for laundry and mail, which inclement weather, is sometimes difficult for some residents.

Several questions were raised about the moving-and-out process, but the law is very clear on this. For those who are exercising the Right of Return, worries about this are unnecessary. Everything will be done for those tenants, and the Housing Authority is responsible for finding acceptable temporary dwellings, I assume subject to our approval of same. One issue which drew a negative reaction from myself and several other concerned the monument plaques in the front, which bear the names Darien men who died in WWI, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam. The argument was that all the names are noted elsewhere, so the monument wasn't necessary which didn't go over too well with some of us.

Our grounds have always been beautifully kept, and fortunately, the former landscapers of one year ago, who frankly did a very sloppy job, have been replaced by a far more competent company, and we are much happier with the way the grounds look.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arden Anderson-Broecking', written over a horizontal line.

Arden Anderson-Broecking.