

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair.; Robin Woods, Ron Heinbaugh, Arden Anderson-Broecking, Amy Squyres, Ray Slavin, Mary McCarthy, Gerri Genovese

STAFF: Beth Paris, Mather Center Director; Olive Hauser, Human Services Director

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 15, 2015

**** MR. SLAVIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2015.**

**** MR. HEINBAUGH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2015 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATHER SENIOR CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris presented her report. (See Attached).

Ms. Hauser joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Ms. Paris said that there had been an incident where an elderly resident had overshot the curbing in his car and went down the embankment almost into the brook. At Home will now provide transportation for the resident. Public Works has been on site and reviewing the area for potential traffic safety upgrades. Discussion followed.

Ms. Squyres asked how many people were attending lunch. Ms. Paris said that the average was 40 people and 80 when there is an event. Aden asked about one of the exercise classes, which Ms. Paris said was underway.

HUMAN SERVICES REPORT.

Ms. Hauser said that the department has been busy.

- The renter's rebate program was going on for about 2 months.

- Applications for Operation Fuel are being accepted. She reviewed the details.
- Medicare Part D has experienced a few problems when there is a hospitalization. The Medicare Part D payment must be paid or the enrollee loses the Plan until the next open enrollment.
- Medical Savings Plans - Referrals have increased, mostly from family and friends.
- There is a new initiative on Safer Homes Darien based on an initiative from State regarding excessive clutter and hoarding. This includes fire and smoke alarms in the homes. the Fire Department and the Health Department have been very helpful with this.
- At Home Strategic Planning - The group hopes to meet with all the Darien Police Officers to discuss with the officers about the At Home Darien program and resources. This will also be done with churches, doctors and dentists.
- The renovations of the Senior Housing are under discussion. One issue is installing electric stoves in the units rather than gas stoves.

OLD BUSINESS

At Home - Ms. Squyres said that there had been a half day meeting for strategic planning. Ms. Annie McGuire will be at the meeting next month to address the Commission on the strategic planning. The drivers have been very friendly and the clients are very pleased with the program and services. A brief discussion followed about the drivers' hours.

Ms. Squyres said that the number one need that was identified when the concept was under discussion in the beginning, was transportation and this has been born out. Discussion followed.

Ms. Paris said that it is important for the community to see the Senior Center, Human Services and At Home as a triad because the clients are Darien residents. As the seniors find out about the programs, they tell others. Ms. Hauser spoke about the coordinator group for veterans that meets at the VFW in Noroton, who recently discovered the support services that the Town offers.

Old Town Hall Homes - Ms. Arden on April 28th, there was a meeting of the Old Town Hall Homes. (See Attached)

Discussion followed about the Housing Authority meetings and moved to the proposed third floor emergency egress. Ms. Aden spoke about concerns related to the quality of the workmanship that was done at the Heights.

Mr. Pankowski announced that Geri Genovese was elected Volunteer of the Year recently.

Mr. Ron Heinbaugh said that he will be having three cars in the Memorial Parade.

Mr. Pankowski said that Selectman Jerry Nielsen who not be running for re-election this year, so he would like to acknowledge that Mr. Nielsen worked very hard to bring the Mather Center into existence.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. ANDERSON-BROECKING MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. WOODS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Commission on Aging Report

Darien Senior Programs

May 20, 2015

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Director

May is already shaping up to be a busy month-attendance continues to increase and the Center is bustling. We are collecting donations for June's BINGO EXTRAVANGANZZA-prizes valued from \$15.00 to \$150.00 first 25 signed up get a door prizes space will be limited to 100 participants.

New/Highlighted classes: We will begin showing a Monthly current feature film on the 2nd Monday of each month; New Exercise Class Senior Aerobics done to energetic music on Mondays at 10:00

Health and Wellness Presentations: Ridgefield VNA-Adaptive Ideas; CT Pharmacy: Pet's and Your Health; Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Filfd. County: Healthy Easting after 60; Stamford Hospital: How to Live to be 100; Dr. Anne Reap: Better Hearing

History & Informational: The Queensboro Bridge –Art Gottlieb LCSW; Ask a Banker w Jack Dowling of First County Bank.

Entertainments: Park Street Singers; Bob Gianotti Musician Extraordinaire

Human Services and Senior Program staff handled incident on May 6th as a team...Police as first responders did an excellent job with the incident, crowd control and beyond. Post 53 response with Senior well handled.

Program Days: 20 Program Days (CLOSED Memorial Day)

Monthly Caregiver Educational Support Group: 7

Human Services Referrals: 8

At Home Darien Referrals: 3

Caregiver Options Counseling: 8

Mather's Evening Use: 7

EMS Calls: 1

Highlighted Programs:

1st Ancient Art of Stone Carving

4th Blood Pressure

4th Senior Aerobics Begins

4th Ridgefield VNA- Complimentary Lunch & Learn "Adaptive Ideas"

5th Historical Series Art Gottlieb LCSW

6th Craft: Hanging Birds

6th Garden Club of Darien –"Pleasure through Plants"

11th Monthly Movie- NEW

12th Musical Program with Bob Ginaotti

13th CT Pharmacy- "Pets and Your Health"

18th Ask a Banker

19th Stamford Hospital Complimentary Lunch & Learn "How to Live to be 100"

20th Craft- Clay Pots

20th Caregiver Educational Support Group- Traveling Tips

21st Better Hearing presented by Dr. Anne Reap

22nd: Ask a Lawyer (Individual Appointments)

25th CLOSED Memorial Day

27th Craft Wall Paper Trinkets

27th Park Street Singers Performance

Ongoing Work in Progress:

Early and Late Fall Planning

Daily Statistics

Monthly Newsletter

BINGO Extravaganza

Defining Building Attendants Duties as they relate to Full time Custodians

Re-Organizing Desk Volunteers

Meetings: Staff Meeting May 8th; SWCAA Advisory Meeting May 13th, COA Meeting May 20th

Building Issue: Elevator did shut down with 3 people in it- telephone system seemed to fail; was repaired within 2 days-door casket replaced- telephone system retested; more comprehensive upgrade coming after July 1.

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON AGING, MAY 20,2015

On April 28, there was a general meeting of the tenants of Old Town Hall Homes, which included information offered by representatives from HERC (Housing Education Resource Center, JHM, the firm that will be responsible for raising the money for the proposed redevelopment of OTHH (Todd McClutchy- JHM)and from the builder, (Imagineers- Matt Anderson.) They took questions from the tenants. Many of the tenants' concerns were addressed. The representative from HERC was cordial and perhaps alleviated the suspicions (I use the word deliberately) of some of the tenants. HERC will individually interview all tenants who wish to exercise the Right of Return to the new building, which right is mandated by state law. The tenants' concerns were primarily about the amount of personal and financial information about which they will be asked in the interviews. Each interview will be one-on-one, with assurance that confidentiality will be strictly maintained. A large part of HERC's job is to see that people who need special arrangements, i.e. medical equipment, wheelchair access, etc, and other preferences, if any. There will be the same age restrictions as are currently present, the building remaining senior housing. Rents are expected to remain at or near the present level.

Regarding residences for current tenants, moving expenses for those who will be relocated will be taken care of by the Housing Authority in entirety both moving out and returning. The difference in rent between that of the present tenant and the new residence will also be met by the Housing Authority, which is also responsible for assisting tenants to find housing for the period of redevelopment.

We were shown the an architect's concept of the new building.(Mr. Krosski) A third story is planned, and the number of apartments doubled. The project is planned to be on the same Post Road site as OTHH. The size of the majority of the apartments will be larger than the present ones. The building will have elevators, niceties such as trash chute, eliminating the necessity of travelling to the dumpster, a laundry room, but with the opportunity to use hookups in the apartments for washers and dryers at a very minimal cost. In other words, there will be no necessity for tenant or aides to brave inclement weather. There will be spacious common areas, similar to those now at the Heights, including a kitchen for use by tenants for entertaining guests of desired, a computer room and possibly an exercise room.

All safety precaution will be met, such as windows which are accessible to the fire department. The maintenance of grounds and parking will also be considered.

Representives of OTHH, as per the Resident Participation Plan (RPP) will be able to sit in on All meetings regarding the redevelopment.

The expectation as of this date is that the redevelopment will begin in summer of 2017. The law requires that the new building be finished within one year. The plans have not yet been finalized, and will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Darien. A preliminary presentation, by no means final, was already offered.

The sessions ended with the regular meeting of the Darien Housing Authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Arden Anderson-Broecking