

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 19, 2013**

ATTENDANCE: Robin Woods, Acting Chair; Mary McCarthy, Thomas Valentino, Ray Slavin

STAFF: Beth Paris, Darien Senior Center

CALL TO ORDER.

Ms. Woods called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was not present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

There was no vote on the minutes due to a lack of quorum.

HUMAN SERVICES REPORT.

Ms. McCarthy reported that Ms. Hauser was not able to attend the meeting. She then distributed the attached report.

Mr. Valentino asked if the seniors were aware that there was a way to lower their electric bill by using alternative companies for lower kilowatt hours.

Ms. Paris joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Ms. Paris said that the Human Services Department was aware of the lower rates and did inform the seniors about it. She added that the kilowatt hours rates often change monthly. Some people follow the kilowatt hours rates closely and change provider services on a very frequent basis.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris distributed copies of her report. See attached.

The 2nd Annual Bingo Extravaganza went well and everyone left with a goodie bag.

The Lunch and Learn program attendance is increasing. More than three quarters of the attendees at a recent lunch were from Darien. The hospitals are committing to doing once a month programs.

The biggest challenge for the upcoming move is identifying which woodworking machinery will be moved to the new location.

The Center has programming planned out to the end of the year.

The driving course is now being offered four times a year.

Ms. Paris said that the woodworking crew had done a model log cabin for one resident's grandson, and remodeling a dollhouse for another. All the machinery in the shop is refurbished. The new wood shop needs to be a dedicated space due to the machinery and the special requirements required.

A Darien CVS cosmetician came and presented a program for the women on make up for the aging face. The ladies were thrilled.

Ms. Paris said that with the increased attendance, people are starting to get tickets for parking on the access road. There are twelve programs that run every day. The numbers are increasing steadily. The Center is moving from 19,000 sq. feet down to 12,500 sq. feet, so every inch will be utilized.

The Center has been assigned a new phone number, which is 656-7490.

Ms. Woods asked about Aging in Place has changed their name. Ms. Paris said that this was true, but the group was waiting for the move to the new facility for a roll out.

OLD BUSINESS.

Ms. Woods said that the hazardous materials removal has been completed in the new space. The remodeling of the downstairs area has begun. Ms. McCarthy asked if there would be a walk through. Ms. Woods said that would be done when the work was closer to completion.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. WOODS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Commission on Aging
Darien Human Services Report

June 19, 2013

1. The Heights of Darien has now returned approximately 30 families or individuals to their new homes. Reviews are all good. The 2nd and 3rd phases have now begun.

We are sending residents who once heated with oil, or their heat was included their rent (the apartments), letters informing them that there will be a difference in the grants they may receive from NEON. As I have reported before, electric customers have received about 75% less than oil customers. This is already an issue for a few very low income residents. We are encouraging everyone to go on a budget plan with CL&P.

We have asked to take a tour of the development and have been told that there will be tours planned for September when the site is more open.

2. Ali Ramsteck and I will participate in an all-day Emergency Operation Center exercise on Thursday, June 20th. Hurricane season is here already and it is predicted to be an active one.

Anyone wishing to be placed on our emergency contact list should contact our office at 203-656-7328.

3. We are seeing more seniors who have not given much thought to estate planning, medical POAs, other issues of aging and end of life decisions. The senior center has been offering programs on these issues and we would like to work with them to do even more.
4. We want to remind seniors and the commission that right outside our office is a library of valuable resource information.
5. In July our office will be participating in a training that will allow us to take applications for Operation Fuel. This is huge, especially for seniors who were being asked to make their way to NEON in South Norwalk to apply in person for these fuel funds. In the past we have had very few applications completed by Darien residents. We hope to change that during the coming fuel season.

Respectfully submitted,
Olive Hauser

Darien Senior Activities Center

Commission on Aging Report

June 19, 2013

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris Coordinator

Our last Art Show at 30 Edgerton was held June 2nd and 3rd over 70 people came through the show area. 5 Artist sold paintings and the Jewelry Instructor sold over a dozen one of a kind pieces. We are looking forward to having a multi media event in the Center annually as well. The 2nd BINGO Extravaganza was well supported with generous donations from local merchants. This year every participant went home with a goodie bag filled with great values and gifts thanks... Space was limited to 100 participants and Chef Tom's box lunch was a big hit! Great Entertainment from the Park Street Singers and the Sedgwick Sisters had the place humming and tapping toes.

Health and Wellness programs balance out the schedule with offerings from Hope St Pharmacy, Stamford Hospital, Always Best Care Inc. and Lifelong Therapeutics. Classes have been full and attended by a wide variety of members.

Working with the Men in the Woodshop on identifying what will move to the new location and what needs to be disposed of. Also getting there input and ideas for the setup of the new space... These men are highly motivated and have taken seriously the repair and restoration of furniture and even have built a few doll houses...The Program is flourishing because of their dedication.

Monthly Caregiver Educational: 9

Caregiver Options Counseling: 5

Referrals to Human Services: 7

AIP+Gallivant Assist : 17

Highlighted Programs for June:

2nd & 3rd Artisan Show

3rd Blood Pressure

3rd Park Street Singers

4th Historical Presentation-D-Day Invasion of Normandy-Art Gottlieb LCSW

4th French Literature

6th Springtime Party with Sedgwick Sisters Entertainment

10th BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA (2nd Annual)

11th Lifelong Therapeutics –Balance Class

12th Hope Street Pharmacy presents "Osteoarthritis"

17th and 24th Reminisce and Reflect with Kim LaMantia

18th Caregiver Educational Support Group

18th Stamford Hospital Complimentary Lunch and Learn "What You Should Know About Strokes"

21st Ask A Lawyer

24th Always Best presents "understanding Dementia" Complimentary Lunch and Learn

25th Darien Library

27th Plus Bingo with Pam James

Ongoing Work in Progress:

Program Planning Fall/Winter

Summer Entertainment Preparations

Staff Meetings and Development

Trend Researching & Collaborations

Daily Stats.

Woodshop Volunteers working on determining needs

Building Issues

Toilet Seat broke in Art Room Area –shut down for 2 weeks –just reopened. Building is spring leaks in new places front door foyer had to be bucketed in a recent rain storms. Water cooler on upper level no longer cooling water.

Meetings Attended:

6/12 SWCAA Advisory Board; 6/11 AIP+Gallivant Program Committee Meeting; 6/11 Wrap up Meeting with Staff regarding BINGO; 6/13 Program Planning Meeting ; 6/19 COA Meeting