

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 16, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Jennifer Geddes, Acting Chair; Amy Squyres; Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan, Geri Genovese

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

CALL TO ORDER.

Acting Chairwoman Geddes called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT.

Ms. Hauser reported that the Renters Rebate letters have just been sent out. There may be an extension for renters to apply. The extension was requested by the cities. Darien will keep the regular deadlines because the extension would push the applications into the Fuel Assistance period.

Regarding Alan O'Neill, Ms. Hauser said major construction is underway. The last tenant has been moved out. There are some regulatory issues, but the project is proceeding well.

Connecticut has dropped below the national employment level and some Seniors have lost their unemployment benefits because of this.

Ms. Hauser gave a brief report on a senior who lost her phone service due to non-payment of bills.

The Home Goods closet status has not changed. The closet takes sponges, laundry soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste and other household cleaning goods.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT.

Ms. Paris reported the art show had gone well and 12 paintings were sold. It was in the newsletter and newspaper. The Senior Center will be sponsoring a Senior Bingo Extravaganza on June 11th and a Memorial Day Kickoff Barbecue after Memorial Day.

Ms. Paris spoke about the newsletter being mailed out and reported that they were not able to raise the \$4,000 contingency. She said that she had contacted other Senior Centers for testimonies about the service.

The computer room is almost completed. There are 12 functioning computers linked into the Town system.

Ms. Paris updated everyone on the water main break and how helpful Aquarian was with evacuating the building. The entire building is being utilized by the Seniors.

Aging in Place - Ms. Squyres reported that there was now a third driver for Gallivant and the sedan and van were available Monday through Friday, 9-5. The Aging In Place volunteer drivers can take residents out of the local area to other towns.

Ms. Hauser said that recently a new brochure had been sent out with a fund raising letter for Aging in Place.

OLD BUSINESS.

Ms. Geddes said that Ms. Woods has called and said that she would not be able to attend the meeting. Ms. McCarthy listed a number of the members who were involved in the Edgerton project. The design for the houses at Edgerton has not been finalized.

The discussion then moved to the Building Use Policy for the new Senior Center that had been sent out for review by the Selectmen and others. There are still some issues that need clarification and concerns about the main users of the facility. There are a number of issues regarding the use of the Mather Center that are confusing to the general public along with what the name of the facility would be. Discussion followed.

It was pointed out that it would be good to have First Selectwoman Stevens; Selectman Campbell, Ms. Swiatek, and members of the Commission on Aging together for a discussion about this issue. Ms. Paris said that it would be very important to have one designated area as the senior gathering place. Discussion followed about the utilization and management of this type of building.

Regarding an update on tax abatement proposal, Ms. Geddes said that she would be putting this on the Selectmen's agenda in the fall. She said that the Tax Collector has been asked to provide a number of how many people this would affect, but there is no way to calculate a number.

NEW BUSINESS.

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT.

Ms. Geddes adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Commission on Aging
Senior Center Report
May 16 2012

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

In honor of **Older American's Month** we are having a few more social celebratory type programs. **Cinco de Mayo** celebration had a hardy attendance of 50 folks who enjoyed Tex/Mex lunch complete with Pina Coladas (non alcoholic) musical entertainment and trivia. 3 musical groups are coming to entertain and we close the Month with a ***Kick of to Summer Celebration*** which includes picnic food and the great entertainer Bob Gianotti. Health and Wellness Program offering are also good supply. Again getting everything into the newsletter was a challenge. **Art Show 3 Day Event** had over 80 Visitors and sold a dozen paintings and several pieces of jewelry.

Sue Swiatek Director of Parks and Recreation and I continue to work on building use and policy for the Mather's Community Center-input from the COA is welcome. The architects are calling weekly with changes/questions and considerations. Marcy Rand Program Specialist are looking ahead to programming is use/needs.

Ongoing Works in Progress: Daily Stats

- Monthly Newsletter
- Programs Fall/Winter
- Policy Manual Additions
- Caregiver Support
- Building Use Mather's facility
- Staff Meetings
- Recertification CPR/AED staff
- Back up support AIP+Gallivant

May Program Highlights: 1st: French Literature Discussion

- 1st: **Financial Lecture-Complimentary Lunch**
- 1st **Historical Series Grand Central Station**
- 2nd Flower Arranging DCA Garden Club
- 2nd & 9th Money Conversations for Women
- 3rd **Cinco de Mayo Celebration**
- 4th AARP Chapter 972 Meeting
- 6th, 7th, 8th **ART SHOW**
- 7th Blood Pressure Screening
- 7th Entertainment "Park Street Singers"
- 8th Hope Street Pharmacy "Your Prescriptions"
- 10th & 24th BINGO with Pam James
- 14th **Diabetes Support Program**
- 15th Take Shape for Life
- 15th **Friendship & Flowers** with Cookie Martini
- 15th Caregiver Educational Support Group
- 17th **Long Term Care Planning w/JHE representative**
- 18th Ask a Lawyer (appointments taken)

21st Presentation “Controlling Blood Sugar”

2nd Lecture “How We Make Decisions”

28th CLOSED Memorial Day

29th Entertainment Senior Songsters

31st Kick off to Summer Beach Party w/ Bob Gianotti

- **Building Issues:** Computer Room reorganization almost complete will install air conditioner in the area to complete project in order to utilize space in the summer months
- Boiler Room Inspected Daily by Chef Vandalism to boiler room door entrance
- Buckets required for 2 main areas during rain storm
- Water Main Break affected Senior Center May 4th Building was evacuated and closed to the public from 11:30 till evening-all programs cancelled including DCA
- Getting ready to reschedule all exercise programs out of the gym area for the summer months.
- Lost Computers and phones 2x so far this month
- Toilet between Movie Room and Library leaking needed new connection was able to repair

Meetings Attended: May 9th SWCAA Advisory Board; May 11th AIP+Gallivant Advisory Board Meeting May 14th DCA Meeting with AED & Nature Center Director; May 16th COA Meeting: