

DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2011

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Amy Squyers, Mary McCarthy, Jennifer Geddes, Pat Morgan, Ray Slavin, Thomas Valentino

OTHERS: Olive Hauser, Director of Social Services; Beth Paris, Senior Center Coordinator; Geri Genovese

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE**, please delete the following: "Charlie English"

Page 1, under **CALL TO ORDER**, please change "9:15" to "9:05 a.m."

**** MS. SQUYRES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MS. MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Ms. Paris reported that Ms. Rand was scheduling new programs and classes. Copies of Memory Matters II newsletter were then distributed to those present. With the increase in programming, there has been an increase in attendance.

Flu shots were in demand. Thursdays continue to be the lowest for attendance. A first time ad was placed in the Darien paper for one program, which was well attended by German speaking residents. Due to this interest, a new class in German language is being formed.

Ms. Paris then invited everyone to attend an upcoming Aging in Place and Gallivant Annual Luncheon on November 17th. She also stated that there would be a Thanksgiving event scheduled.

A moment of silence was requested for a Senior who had regularly attended the Darien Senior Center and had passed away recently and the family member of another long time Senior Center supporter who recently passed away.

Ms. Squyers asked how is the Aging in Place program working out. Ms. Paris said that it was working out well and referrals are being made to Ms. Hauser when appropriate. Discussion followed about the collaboration that is underway.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Ms. Hauser then presented her report.

Renters rebate checks have been received. Energy assistance is now considering funding gas and electric heating customers, which is referred to as deliverable fuel. However this funding will be significantly less. Heating oil disbursements will also be significantly less. The application process is more complicated now and requires Social Security cards.

Thanksgiving and Christmas coupons or baskets will be provided from Person-to-Person.

Ms. Hauser said that she would be attending the meeting at Maplewood for ground breaking in the summer of 2012. This facility program is focused on Alzheimer's and dementia patients. First Selectman Campbell gave a very brief overview of the project. Ms. Hauser said that she was looking forward to collaborating with them.

Ms. Hauser said that there would be an official resources program opening in the near future.

The Aging In Place luncheon will be held on November 17th from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Ms. Hauser said that there were a number of events in the residences. A recent tag sale was a nice success and a Halloween party is planned. There is an upcoming opportunity to ring the bell for the Salvation Army in December.

There was an update on the housing project on Wakemore Street, which currently is proposed to have 62 three-bedroom condos for those residents 55 and older. There will be no moderate income units. The proposed housing project for corner of Academy Street may be one affordable unit, but there may be an offer of funding in lieu with the money going towards the moderate income units.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Pankowski said that there has been a very successful 72 hours for the Darien Aging Committee, starting with an appearance before the RTM committee. The straw poll in sense of

the meeting was strongly in favor of transfer. The following night there was a presentation to the Board of Finance, who voted 4 to 3 in favor of the project. Now the proposal goes to the RTM for a vote. Selectwoman Stevenson said that Joe did a wonderful job in presentation. Chairman Pankowski said that he appreciated the efforts of Amy and others about this.

It was stated that the tours have had a positive impact. The next tour is Saturday at noon. First Selectman Campbell said that it is an eye opener about how much space has been wasted for the last 27 years.

Ms. Hauser said there had been a request for her to attend the RTM subcommittee meeting for Public Health and Safety on October 26th at 7:30 p.m. She encouraged everyone to attend.

The discussion then moved to a recent referral of an elderly woman to the Aging in Place program and how successful it was. It was also reported that St. John's Church has a regular Chat and Chew senior outreach. The seniors in this program will be going to the Senior Center on November 16th for a program.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Pankowski said that there it is strong likelihood that there facility transfer may go forward. If the transfer happens, then the Edgerton Street site may be considered for 20 affordable senior housing units. This could actually cut the amount of traffic on Edgerton Street. There was a concern about non-pervious parking surfaces expressed because it would reduce the water problem. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. MORGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. MCCARTHY SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Darien Senior Activities Center
Commission on Aging Report
October 19, 2011
Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

October calendar is diversified and full. Once again we are offering the Memory Matters Series Part II with the Greens of Cannondale. 4 professional speakers and 4 music and Art programs 4 consecutive Tuesdays-all geared toward keeping Memory health and sharp for the entire life span...averaged 40 per session total of 68 different folks signed up. Trying new **themed entertainments** and lunch **Oktoberfest** and Bratwurst and **Hoedown** with Chicken and cornbread...

Contacted Schools for intergenerational programs more to come...**Y's pre-school** will be coming in costumes to trick or treat; **Middlesex Middle school** reading program has scheduled several seniors to read and discuss books with several **6th grade** classes. **Life Time Learners from NCC** 4 classes running at Center through the month.

43 Folks for Flu shots in September next clinic October 18th

Trying to advertise a bit differently ran and ad for the 1st time in the Darien Times. Had a professional banner made for the up coming Holiday Fair. Several Volunteers taking Newsletter to DMA; local churches, Sugar Bowl other Senior events...

Bad press or depiction of the Senior Center has a dump while accurate does affect participation.

Fielding more drops INS from the public looking to tour the building and ask for information regarding building use, numbers and programs.

Ongoing work in Progress: Monthly Newsletter

Submitted Dept. Head Quarterly Report July-September 2011
Special Reports for Building Committee, BOS, CAO
Daily Statistic Gathering and Reporting
Trouble shooting the building
Staff team building
Updates w/Olive
AIP+Gallivant Support

Building Projects: Clearing out storage area –recovery from mouse infestation
Utilizing containers and re-organizing to prevent clutter
Public Health Inspection will be given a rating of fair we are
Not able to replace ventilation fans in 3 bathrooms
Door closure between art and card room that is on the outer door
Broke off needs to be replaced

October Program Highlights: 3rd Blood Pressure
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Memory Matter Series
5th Darien Garden Club
10th CLOSED Columbus Day
12th AARP Driving Course
12th Coping with Hearing Loss
13th October Fest with Austrian Boys Band
17th Ask the Lawyer
18th Flu Shot Clinic
18th Medicare Information Session w/Inta Adams
19th Bob Duff visits
20th Hoedown Entertainment and Lunch
24th Humble Bees Entertainments
27th YMCA's Nursery School Halloween Visit

Meetings Attended: Monthly meeting with Olive Hauser Social Service,
Weekly meeting AIP+Gallivant ED, weekly Team meeting at Center,
HSPC October 12th, Mary Underwood Maplewood Inc. October 14th, COA meeting
October 19th, SWCAA annual meeting October 20th