

DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2011

ATTENDANCE: Joe Pankowski, Chair; Amy Squyres, Mary McCarthy, Jennifer Geddes, Pat Morgan, Robin Wood

OTHERS: Olive Hauser, Director of Social Services; Beth Paris, Senior Center Coordinator, David Campbell, Board of Selectmen

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 then noted:

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE** and forward: please change "Squyers" to "Squyres"

Page 2, paragraph 1, line 1: please replace the following:

"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."

WITH

"A moment of silence was requested for Mae Lechak who had passed away recently and also for Sal Giarrantano, a former member of the C.O.A. who recently passed away."

Page 2, paragraph 2, line 1: please change the following from: "the Aging in Place program working out" to "the Aging in Place office at the working out Senior Center is working out."

Page 2, under **SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT**, paragraph five, please replace the following:

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

near future.”

WITH

“Ms. Hauser said that Social Services will be designated the Senior Resource Center for the Town.”

Page 2, under **SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT**, paragraph 7, line 1: please change: “of events in the residences.” To “of events at Senior Housing.”

Page 2, under **SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT**, paragraph 8, line 3: please change “may be one affordable” to “may have one affordable”

**** MS. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2011 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MS. GEDDES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2011 MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Ms. Paris distributed copies of her report and gave an update on the various programs. The month of November will have a number of events for the Seniors, including a lecture on financial elder abuse and exploitation and two health presentations from Norwalk Hospital.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Ms. Hauser then presented her report to the Committee.

Ms. Hauser updated the Committee members on the current status of the Energy Assistance Program. One applicant that had qualified to receive over \$700 in Energy Assistance last year was awarded \$175 this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Pankowski then reviewed recent events regarding the potential Senior Center move to the current Board of Education location. The Board of Education is willing to move down to the old library site.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion followed about the upcoming referendum, the technicalities of scheduling the referendum and possible wording of the referendum question. Mr. Campbell said that

Atty. Fox was working on the wording for the ballot question and that it should be ready for review shortly.

The discussion then moved to the issues around a recently circulated petition and how some residents perceived the issues.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MORGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. WOOD SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

Commission on Aging Report
Darien Senior Activities Center
November 16, 2011
Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

November is packed with Programs and Actives and promises to be a busy month. The **Connecticut Money School** will offer a **4 part financial series**. A **Program on Elder Abuse** presented by **Jessica Lewis from the JHE** protective services outlined all levels of abuse a senior can encounter and way to prevent it 30 folks attended. **Norwalk Hospital** will introduce a **2 Integrative Medicine Classes**. **National Memory Screening Day** by Home Care and Hospice of Fairfield County hosted at Center. And of course 2 annual events the Thanksgiving Celebration **131 signed up** and The Holiday Fair Saturday the 19th from 9-3.. **Norwalk Community College Lifetime Learners Courses** will be ending this month-4 classes brought in over 30 different students to the Center.

Approved Plans for the Mather's Community Center are on display as of 11/3/2011. Lots of discussion and programming excitement from members and participants.

Ongoing Work in Progress: Monthly Newsletter
Annual Report submitted
Daily statistical recording
Program Planning into early Spring
Social Service Meeting and referral meetings
AIP+Gallivant collaborations and support
Refining Policy Manual
Staff team building

November Program Highlights: 1st Blue Notes
2nd Darien Garden Club
2nd Holiday Make Overs
4th AARP Chapter 972 Meeting
7th Blood Pressure
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th Ct Money School Series
9th Financial Elder Abuse and Exploitation Lecture
14th Energy Bingo
15th National Memory Screening Day (by appointment)
16th Thanksgiving Celebration
16th Bob Gianotti Entertains
19th Holiday Fair 9-3
22nd Integrative Medicine Health Benefits Norwalk
24th & 25th CLOSED
29th Ask the Lawyer
30th Herbal Supplements Save or Not Norwalk Hospital

Building Projects: Hot water heater replaced part for the circulator
Boiler to be serviced
Windows re-secured in Craft and Bingo Rooms
Storage bin and Cleaning of Closet between Art and Card rooms

Meetings Attended: November 3rd AIP+Gallivant Program Planning Meeting; Nov 4th Meeting with Olive Hauser Director Social Services; November 5th Presented as Panelist Fairfield County; Nov 9th SWCAA Advisory Board; Nov.16th COA meeting. November AIP+Gallivant ED as needed and requested. Nov 21st Advisory Board Meeting AIP+Gallivant.