

**DRAFT**  
**TOWN OF DARIEN**  
**COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MAY 19, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE:** Joseph Pankowski, Chair; Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan, Amy Squyres,  
Robin Woods

**ABSENT:** Jennifer Geddes, Charlie England, Ron Heinbaugh, Tom Valentino

**OTHERS:** Beth Paris, Senior Center Coordinator; Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Pankowski called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

There was no quorum. The meeting was discussion only.

**APRIL MINUTES**

The April Minutes will be reviewed at the June meeting.

**SENIOR CENTER REPORT**

Ms. Paris reported that forty new seniors have joined, bringing membership to approximately 700. She said there is a workshop in which members can bring in furniture to get repaired by professionals. There is much interest in this workshop.

She spoke about working with DHS history teachers connecting students with World War II Veterans for interviews.

There will be a three-session lecture series on *Replenishing Your Body and Brain* beginning on Monday, June 7, and the following two Mondays at 12:45 p.m. A handout was provided. The focus is on nutrition and foods that feed one's brain for optimal function, and foods that keep the heart and arteries healthy.

The Art Show was a huge success. There were 84 guests and over 40 artists.

The caregiver educational support group is growing.

**May Highlights:**

3<sup>rd</sup> - Emergency Preparedness for Seniors

4<sup>th</sup> - Senior Men's Chorale

5<sup>th</sup> - Flower Arranging with Darien Garden's Club

10<sup>th</sup> - CT Money School "Structuring your Portfolio for Retirement"

16<sup>th</sup> - Senior Center Art Show  
24<sup>th</sup> - Natural Dental Advisor Lecture  
26<sup>th</sup> - High Tea  
31<sup>st</sup> - Memorial Day - Senior Center closed

#### Building Projects

Donation of office furniture including a conference table set to be received shortly  
Light furniture repair program

#### Work in Progress

Monthly newsletter  
Maintenance Plan  
Emergency Plan for Senior Center

SWCAA meeting was attended by Robin Woods  
CASCP (Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel) was attended by Sue Swiatek

Mr. Pankowski inquired about expenses for the Senior Center and if they come out of the Parks & Recreation budget. Mr. Kilduff said yes, but they need to be prioritized according to urgency.

It was agreed that some members of other boards and committees are not aware of all the Senior Center has to offer. Mr. Pankowski is e-mailing to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance members the *Home Safety for Seniors* flyer and invitation. This program is scheduled for June 8 at the Senior Center. It will be an informative program, lunch will be served, and a large turnout is anticipated, Ms. Paris said. She said the Senior Center is off the beaten path and some residents don't know where the building is, and/or how bad the conditions are at the Center.

Mr. Pankowski said that the Senior Center, and the move, is our top priority at this time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. McCarthy asked about the Architect's report and the time frame.

Mr. Kilduff said it should be available sometime in June. At that time, Phase II will begin. Ms. Morgan asked who approves the report. Mr. Kilduff said it is a study with no drawings, and there is no approval. The Board of Selectmen will vote on a proposal that then goes to the Board of Finance for funding. Mr. Kilduff said the Board of Education will be involved. There will be a new superintendent and that person may need to have experience moving a central office. Ms. Squyres mentioned that the BOE was housed at Cherry Lawn before moving to Town Hall.

Mr. Kilduff said that after the architect, Fritz Morris, completes the study, strong leadership will move this forward. The study will reflect on the operation and how the work will get completed. Ms. Squyres asked if the project should move quicker. Mr. Kilduff was not certain. He said the Board of Selectmen are involved, there are bonding levels, etc. Mr. Kilduff said the study focuses on 35 Leroy vs. Town Hall. He said that it took the Library three years to raise funds for their new building. The costs of maintaining the Senior Center create a sense of urgency to do something soon. The Weed

Beach project and the new police building will be the other projects contending for funds. Ms. Woods inquired about insurance for the current building. Mr. Kilduff said there is adequate insurance for Edgerton.

Mr. Kilduff said that Ms. Paris should attend meetings when the Center is discussed, as she can report on statistics. Mr. Pankowski said that he also will take a lead role when needed such as attending fall RTM meetings along with Ms. Paris and Mr. Kilduff. Mr. Kilduff said the Board of Selectmen will make a decision this summer on the study.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Squyres reported that there is a nominating committee for Aging in Place and that by the fall there will be a new board. Mr. Pankowski said that having Aging in Place in the same building as the Senior Center will provide synergies for both organizations. Ms. McCarthy inquired about how programs are being promoted to make seniors aware of the same. Ms. Squyres mentioned the Darien Patch as one vehicle. Ms. Paris said that her information and news is submitted to the Darien Patch.

Ms. Paris said she has a need for a digital camera to take her own pictures at events. Mr. Kilduff said the Gift Fund could cover this expense.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT**

No Report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MS. McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
- \*\* MS. SQUYRES SECONDED.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

*Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 16, at 9:00 a.m., Room 119, Darien Town Hall.*

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck,  
Recording Secretary