

DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Joseph Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Vice Chair; Charlie England, Ron Heinbaugh, Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan, Amy Squyres, Tom Valentino, Robin Woods
OTHERS: Beth Paris, Senior Center Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pankowski called to order the regular meeting at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

The following changes were made to the October Minutes:

Page 3, delete line 2 and 3, Ms. Geddes... focus on e-mails. Replace with *Ms. Geddes and Ms. McCarthy also are on the subcommittee.*

**** MS. MORGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGE TO THE OCTOBER MINUTES, AND TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS MODIFIED.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Ms. Paris said that there is an Art Show at Town Hall that has been well attended. Twelve paintings have been sold to date. She stated that students from the oil, water, and acrylic art classes were the artists.

105 people signed up for the pre-Thanksgiving feast today.

Three nurses were on board for the National Memory and Screening Day. A plaque was received.

Senior Center Holiday Fair will take place on November 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Paris said that our programs and services work is going in the right direction for accreditation.

The November newsletter was handed out at the meeting, which is very informative, artistic, and colorful. The November Calendar within the newsletter listed extensive activities and events.

Attached to the Minutes is the November Senior Center Report.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Ms. Geddes reported on behalf of Ms. Hauser as follows:

Ms. Hauser was unable to attend today's meeting due to her busy schedule. Many people are requesting financial help from the Social Services office. Thanksgiving baskets are being prepared. Fuel assistance demand is up and the requests span many age groups, not only the elderly. Since the 99 weeks of unemployment insurance is coming to an end, many are impacted by losing this income. Foreclosures are up. Ms. Hauser is seeing an increased need to help a wide spectrum of people.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McCarthy read her letter in support of senior living in Darien. Members voted that it was superbly written and the board asked that she send off her letter to the Darien Times and the News Review. It was thought that the week after Thanksgiving will be a good time to have the article published.

Ms. McCarthy was complimented on her engaging and positive letter and was encouraged to get it to the editors of both papers. Ms. Squyres said this is a great piece for the members of the RTM to have in hand. Mr. Pankowski suggested that a PDF copy go to the BOS and BOF as well.

Mr. Lou Valpolicelli was suggested as a speaker at the Senior Center.

Ms. Paris stated that a large, original window broke at the Center during a high winds storm. She said that no one was in the room where the damage occurred. The wind gusts blew out the window and shards of glass were all over. Mr. Valentino suggested that this 'flying glass' story is noteworthy and will garner attention and some light humor too. He suggested that this information be sent to the editors as well.

Mr. Valentino said that Darien senior men have the highest rate of pneumonia in Fairfield County. This was reported by Kevin Cunningham of the Health Advisory Board.

Mr. Pankowski said that each member of the COA should commit to taking on at least one role as a liaison to a group, or writing letters to editors for seniors.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Woods reported that she was asked to serve in an advisory role on the Building Committee. She will be the COA liaison. She stated that the current focus is on the BOE. They need to move first before the Senior Center can be set up at Town Hall. The goal is to prepare the RFQ to select an architect. It has not yet been determined if one architect will manage one or both projects. Ms. Squyres inquired about the specs for the Senior Center, and the Parks and Recreation department involvement. Ms. Paris said she, Mr. Kilduff and Ms. Swiatek will be involved. Ms. Squyres said that the specs should be what we want for the Center and it has to be monitored. Ms. Paris stated that she has a list of well constructed and aesthetically pleasing senior centers in the area, and also has the name of the architect for each. She suggested that they be looked at to get an idea of what others have done.

Ms. Woods asked Ms. Paris to release her from SWCAA responsibilities.

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m., Room 119, Darien Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck,
Recording Secretary

Attachment (Senior Center Report)

Darien Senior Activities Center Report
Commission on Aging
November 17, 2010
Respectfully submitted: Beth Paris

November has already been very full we showcased over 30 Center Artist with an opening Art Show Reception on November 5. Over 100 folks attended the reception with 30 plus artist from our watercolor, acrylic and oil classes. We received many complements and much support for our total program because of this one event. We also had a well attended program on Medicare Updates from our own Social Service Dept. Ina Adams.

Ongoing Works in Progress: Newsletter
Policy Manual
Program Development
Holiday Fair Preparation
Senior Senior Prom Arrangements

Building Projects: Winter Maintenance

November Program Highlights

1st & 8th Historical Series – Guadalcanal / Pearl Harbor
3rd Medicare Updates with Ina Adams
November 5th Artist Reception @ Town Hall 6:00-8:00pm
9th Blue Notes
10th Health Talk Loss and Depression
11th CLOSED
12th Lifetime Learners Series Ends
15th Protecting Yourself from Identity Theft
16th National Memory Screening Day- Screenings held 9:30-11:30
16th Caregiver Educational Support Group “Less Stress for the Holidays”
17th Thanksgiving Celebration Entertainment
November 20th Holiday Fair 10:00-3:00
22nd Health talks “Insomnia” Dr Ian Wier from Norwalk Hospital
24th Let’s Talk with Lou
25th & 26th Closed Thanksgiving Holiday
29th Travelogue Rocky Mountains with Ted Skein

Meetings attended AIP Board Meeting November 8th 3:30-5:00
AIP Netowrking Meeting at Senior Center November
9th 2:00-3:30
SWCAA Advisory Meeting 9:00-11:30 Kennedy
Center in Trumbull