

**TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Joseph Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Vice Chair; Mary Giarratana, Karen Joelson, Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan (9:10 a.m.), Amy Squyres

OTHERS: Linda Santarella (Selectmen's Liaison), Olive Hauser (ex-officio/Social Services), Beth Paris (Senior Center Coordinator), Elaine Kilbourn, Office Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pankowski called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ** **MS. JOELSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 15, 2009 MINUTES.**
- ** **MS. GEDDES SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Pankowski said there is no Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Pankowski said that Sue Swiatek and Beth Paris are the liaisons to this group. He said that senior safety is the number one priority. He added that we have lost a legend, Nancy Zengo.

Sue Swiatek is an advocate for seniors and has funding availability, he added.

Ms. Morgan joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Mr. Pankowski welcomed Beth Paris and asked that she read her report.

She said her position began on August 24. Carolyn Lewis is the senior center assistant and works approximately nineteen hours weekly at the center.

She said this month Family Center's Friendly Connection Program is presenting a series of Health and Wellness talks such as – Brain teaser-Trivia Challenge, Nutrition for Older Adults, and Healthy Hearts. This summer was a Healthy Lunch and Learn Summer Series. Each lunch included a lecture. This was paid for by a wellness grant that the Town had procured.

Seniors from New Canaan and Darien will travel by motor coach into New York to see “West Side Story” on September 24. Lunch is included. Also, a four-day trip to D.C. planned with the Norwalk Senior Center from September 30-October 3, 2009.

David Knauf, Director of the Health Department will give a talk on flu prevention on September 22. The Flu Clinic is scheduled for October 5 from 9 to 11 a.m. Nursing and Home Care is the coordinating agency.

Senator Bob Duff came to the Center to serve lunch and gave a talk on a new bill he sponsored. The bill passed and it will protect seniors from unscrupulous financial advisors.

Norwalk Community College’s fall Life time Learners Program will start this month at the Center. Classes in Acrylic and Oil painting, stone carving, and pottery are a few of the offerings. She said that the October calendar also is packed with many activities and will be an exciting time at the center. Mr. Pankowski thanked her for her report.

Ms. Squyres said that a Policy and Procedures manual should be put together.

Ms. Paris said that she plans to do this but does not believe it will be completed until the beginning of 2010. Sue Swiatek is to have input too, she said.

Mr. Pankowski said that we will have a meeting in February or March to go over the manual.

Ms. Paris said the center will be a hub for learning, socializing, classes, etc. rather than people going to the center to just sit around.

Mr. Pankowski said he would like to see monthly reports by assigned people to determine where the needs are.

Ms. Squyres talked about the flu shot. Ms. Paris added that the flu shot information will be available on the Calendar. Mr. Pankowski said that communication is very important on this topic. Ms. Morgan suggested placing calendars on the long table on the 2nd floor in Town Hall. The library and the YMCA also will have this information.

Ms. Hauser suggested that Elaine Kilbourn join the meeting to give dates and times when the regular flu shot will be given.

Ms. Kilbourn provided a Flu Clinics sheet from Nursing & Home Care and noted the following:

- Darien Senior Center, October 5, 9 to 11 a.m., \$38, Medicare, BC/BS
- Darien Town Hall, October 28, 9 to 11 a.m. \$30 or Medicare
- Darien Town Hall, November 3, Time TBD, \$30 or Medicare
- Darien Library, October 8, 3 to 7 p.m., \$30 or Medicare
- Darien Library, November 16, 4 to 6 p.m.

The beach line can be called at 656-7323 for updates.

Ms. Joelson announced that she can no longer be on the SWCAA (Southwest Connecticut Agency on Aging) Advisory Board. She said that the traveling and amount of work is no longer feasible for her. She said meetings are held at various locations.

Ms. Squyres thought that Robin Woods would be a good successor. The board agreed. Ms. Joelson will submit her resignation letter.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. McCarthy will give a report at the October meeting on communications with the library.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Geddes said that Eat Well is the replacement for Food Stamps. Many who are eligible do not apply as there is a stigma attached. Welfare (public assistance) is another program that is under utilized because of the stigma.

Ms. Hauser reported that the half-price taxi program is doing very well. Over 600 taxis have been used. A newspaper ad will be taken out to let more people know about this program. Grant dollars will cover the cost of the advertisement.

Ms. Hauser said the fuel program will be starting soon.

Ms. Paris said that a focal point of the senior center is to make it more appealing. It is an old building, in need of repair. Safety is a concern. Senior center parking needs to be better managed especially for the handicapped. There also is not enough parking for the volume of people who go to the center.

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck