

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 18, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Joe Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Ron Heinbaugh,  
Mary McCarthy, Robin Woods, Ray Slavin, Anne Marie Rayhill

**STAFF:** Beth Paris, Mather Center Director

**OTHERS:** Peter Eder, At Home in Darien Board Vice President

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**April 20, 2016 Minutes.**

**\*\* MS. GEDDES MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2016.**

**\*\* MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2016 AS  
SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATHER CENTER**

Ms. Paris presented her report. (See attached)

Ms. Paris said that the staff was collecting data on why non-residents were coming to Darien Senior Center. She added that the pattern was that the out of town attendees had some kind of connection with Darien in their past. A discussion followed about the Town expectation of the Senior Center being revenue neutral.

Mr. Pankowski then asked the Commissioners how they felt about charging a fee for the non-resident attendees. Discussion followed. Mr. Pankowski suggested that the Commissioners consider what amount would be good for an annual non-resident fee.

**HUMAN SERVICES**

Ms. Hauser was not present.

Mr. Eder updated people on At Home in Darien, AARP and State issues. He displayed a timeline for At Home in Darien. He then reviewed the statistics of the various types of

phone inquiries that At Home in Darien receives in a month. He spoke about the membership card program and the new flyer. He said that At Home in Darien relies on the generous donations and there are now over 500 donors.

Mr. Eder then gave an overview of what AARP is doing in the State. He said that most of the time was spend defending the services that the elderly currently receive. Mr. Eder said that considerable effort asking the presidential candidates about their positions about Social Security and distributing information about supporting Social Security.

Mr. Eder said there were a number of legislative changes. He reminded everyone that the Department of Social Service must report suspected elder abuse.

He said that he had just received an email from Ms. Terry Woods that the Commission of Aging has been combined with the Commission on Women and Children into a Commission on Children, Women and Elderly.

Mr. Eder spoke about the AARP Fraud Watch program and encouraged people to be aware of the various types of scams.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to consider at this time.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pankowski said that Ms. Anderson-Brockering would no longer be able to participate on the Commission. Mr. Slavin said that the Republicans were working on identifying a candidate to replace Ms. Anderson-Brockering.

Mr. Pankowski announced that Ms. Woods would be moving to Rowayton and thanked her for contributions during the Shuffle and the renovation of the Mather Center. Ms. Woods said that she would continue to work with At Home in Darien as a Board Member.

Ms. Geddes said that she had some questions about the housing project and the concerns of the seniors that were living in the Old Town Hall Houses. Discussion followed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MR. SLAVIN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

## **Darien Senior Programs**

Commission on Aging Report

May 18, 2016

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Director

May is Older Americans Month this year theme is "Blaze a Trail" The emphasis on Seniors that are reinventing themselves, exploring other interests and engaging in the community after 60 and way beyond. Programs and activities offered this month underscoring this theme.

Arranged for At Home in Darien to have Strategic Planning meeting in the Mather Café extension on May 20<sup>th</sup> 8:00-11:30.

**Highlighted & New Classes:** Probate Court Judge William Osternford: speaking about changes in Probate fees, power of attorney laws and Q&A; Public Utility Regulatory Authority present options in Electric suppliers;

**Health & Wellness:** *Ridgefield VNA* –Fall Prevention; *VNA & Hospice of Fairfield County*- Stroke Awareness \*\*; *Ct Pharmacy*- Skin and Health Protection; *Stamford Hospital*- How to Live to be 100 without Disability; *Kelly Johnson LCSW, Family Centers*- Good Lit, Good Life! ; *Walgreens Pharmacy* presents Blood Pressure Information

**Educational:** *SWCAA presents*- Medicare Fraud Prevention; *Art Gottlieb, LCSW*- History of the Korean War; Reminisce with Geri Genovese; Caregiver Educational Support Group-Alzheimer's Conference Overview; Darien Library TBA; AARP Safe Driving Course

**Creative Pursuits:** *Garden Club of Darien*- Pleasure through Plants; Wednesday Crafts with *Guest Artist Andy Davis* Week 2 and *Guest Crafter Kim Van Munching* Week 3; Ongoing Art Classes

**Entertainments:** Karen Wagner sings Broadway; Monday at the Movies;

**Services:** Blood Pressure Screening *VN & Hospice of Fairfield County* 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Morning of the Month 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Afternoon of the Month; Ask a Social Worker every Wednesday *Darien Human Services*; Ask a Lawyer monthly by appointment only; Supportive Options Counseling as needed /requested

**Program Days:** 21 (Closed May 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day)

**Caregiver Educational Support Group:** 8

**Human Services Referrals:** 12

**At Home in Darien:** 8

**Caregiver Options/Supportive Counseling:** 9

**Family Inquiries:** 7

**EMS Calls:** 0

**Ongoing Works in Progress**

Statistics for Non Resident Membership

Newsletter

Daily Statistics

Program Planning Summer-Fall

Stamford Hospital Health Assessment & Focus Group Coordination

Clerk/Receptionist for Senior Programs Training

Food Survey Development implemented in June

**Meetings Attended:** May 3 At Home in Darien & Human Services Meeting; May 11<sup>th</sup> SWCAA Advisory Meeting; May 17<sup>th</sup> COA Meeting; May 20<sup>th</sup> Strategic Planning meeting for At Home in Darien 8-11:30