



Town of Wilton, CT  
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES  
Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2016

Present: Judy Zucker, Phil Lauria, Michael O'Connell, Cathy Pierce, Deborah Low, Pam Kelley, Danielle Mancuso, Ann Mitrone

Absent: Christine Tenore

Special Guests: Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern Connecticut Representatives. Renee Dobos, Chief Executive Officer; Minerva Martinez, Senior Property Manager; and, Evelyn Caraballo, Wilton Commons Property Manager.

Chairman Judy Zucker called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. She welcomed to the Commission two new members – Danielle Mancuso and Ann Mitrone.

Deborah Low motioned to have the minutes from the December 10, 2015 meeting approved. Pam Kelley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Directors Report

Cathy is presenting the Social Services budget to the Board of Selectman on January 19, 2016. She requested as many Commission members attend as possible. Her presentation will focus on the hi-lights of her budget request, particularly changes from previous years. Judy Zucker led a short discussion with Commission members regarding potential questions and scenarios with Cathy.

Cathy will be attending the February 2016 meeting of the Southwestern CT Task Force on Heroin and Opiate addiction on behalf of Wilton. She will update the Commissioners on the meeting in February.

#### Guest Speaker – Renee Dobos

Phil Lauria introduced Renee Dobos and her staff to the Commissioners. Renee provided background on the mission of Mutual Housing (MHASWCT), as a not-for-profit manager and developer of affordable housing services for Fairfield County. In the case of Wilton Commons, Mutual Housing acts in close partnership with the Board of Directors and the tax credit investor (National Equity Fund) to set priorities and manage the property. Minerva Martinez provides management oversight for the 3 Senior Residences in MHASWCT's portfolio – Trumbull, Wilton, and Bridgeport – and Evelyn Caraballo works specifically at the Wilton property.

Renee shared with the Commissioners the three income tiers in-place for Wilton Commons, as they relate to the Area Median Income (AMI) statistics. She reviewed the differences between the Wilton Congregate (23 units under construction) and Wilton Commons (51 units) but emphasized residents in both communities will share the services provided by the Resident Services coordinator. She discussed the plan for promoting Wilton Congregate over the next 30 days, with applications and the existing wait list being reviewed soon. The Board will be finalizing the application for Wilton Congregate and planning the review process with Renee and the Mutual Housing team. She confirmed the construction manager Hanes is targeting an in-service date of June 2016. Lastly, she elaborated to the Commissioners the extra services provided to Congregate residents, including aides, more ADA compliant facilities, and a fully-outfitted kitchen for a daily hot meal.

#### Liaison Reports:

No liaison reports were provided.



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Upon motion to adjourn made by Phil Lauria, seconded by Pam Kelley, and unanimously approved, the meeting ended at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary