

COMMISSION on SOCIAL SERVICES

Town of Wilton

Minutes of March 14, 2013 Meeting

Attending: Roseann De Simone, David Graybill, Peg Koellmer, Judy Mabley, Cathy Pierce, Virginia Smith, Christine Tenore and Judy Zucker

Absent: Betty Jo Corridon

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Peg Koellmer at 5:31 PM

The minutes of the February 14th meeting were approved

Commission Business:

New member: Christine Tenore was introduced to the Commission. Christine is an Elder Law attorney representing the Democratic Party and is completing the term held by Nathaniel Shipp. Her term will expire on November 13, 2013.

Director's Report: Cathy Pierce reported on a new initiative that she and her department are planning. The Mental Health First Aid training program will be held on Friday June 7th and June 14th. It is an interactive training course open to the public for the purpose of skill development in dealing with individuals who are experiencing mental health issues. Upon completion, this program will provide the participant with a 3 year certificate in MHFA. The cost is \$100.00 per person and will be held at Comstock Community Center. D. Graybill suggested that the media be contacted so that this program could be advertised to the community.

Gift-Giving Program: C. Pierce asked to table our continued discussion due to the fact that she has not had the opportunity to speak with the individuals in charge.

New clients with financial issues: P. Kapiscian is proving to be invaluable in the assistance of our community members. Due to her expertise she is able to expedite and problem solve in a short period of time aiding the department clients in attaining quick financial assistance. C. Pierce is proposing to increase her hours in the future.

Mental Health Fair: Youth Services is coordinating this program and it will be held at Wilton High School on April 21st. On Tuesday April 23rd, a Community Event will be held at the Wilton High School Little Theater, co-sponsored by Wilton Youth Services and featuring Joe Pantioliano, the topic focusing on mental health.

Liaison Reports:

Trackside: P. Koellmer reported that Trackside is doing extremely well. They came in at a flat budget this year. She stated that the Board of Selectmen has requested a breakdown of usage information sheet that will be provided. J. Zucker asked if we have any youth services available to assist in jobs such as snow removal etc. for elderly and disabled community members. P. Koellmer stated that Trackside will become a clearing house for these services and is working with the high school to get this program in place

DVCC: P. Koellmer stated that the meeting was cancelled due to the snow storm.

Public School Health and Guidance: R. De Simone reported that since the Newtown Tragedy there has been a heightened awareness in regard to student personal and mental health safety. The student crisis team has met and appropriate action is being taken.

Interfaith Council: C. Pierce stated that the funding is going extremely well which allows her department to assist community members in financial need.

Food Pantry: Cathy Pierce stated that even though the number of households per usage went down, it is still a struggle to keep food available. Families are limited to 2 bags of food while single individuals are limited to 1. Caraluzzi s Market donated a \$200 gift certificate which will be used to purchase food.

Local Housing and Economic Report: P. Koellmer stated that the volume within the housing market is up with prices stabilizing.

Stay at Home Wilton: J. Mably states that the program going well and appears to be a positive response by participants in the program. Volunteers are contacting program participants during emergencies (storms, power outages etc.) to check on their well being.

Youth Council: Colleen Fawcett and her staff will be co-sponsoring and participating in the Mental Health Fair at Wilton High School (as mentioned above) and also will be sponsoring an evening program on Wednesday March 20th 7 to 9 PM at Trackside called Navigating the Teen Years.

Comstock Renovation: J. Zucker stated that she and her committee are looking at the renovation proposals with ADA and Health and Safety compliance in the forefront. She presented a list of concerns to the Town and this will most likely be addressed as a Capital Request during a Town meeting. Her committee is also requesting immediate action on Limited Scope Items that do not require Architectural and or Engineering input. There will be a special Town Meeting in June to address Open Space.

Wilton Commins: J. Mabley and D. Graybill stated that it is approximately 80% complete. Move in day is scheduled for mid- to end of April. Discussion ensued on the selection process for potential residents.

Senior Center Advisory Council: C. Tenore (Elder Law Attorney) volunteered to discuss information regarding Elder Law to the Commission and expressed an interest to join J. Mably in liaison to Stay at Home Wilton.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann De Simone, Co-secretary