



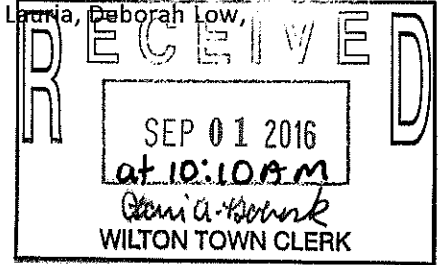
Town of Wilton, CT
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2016

Present: Judy Zucker, Pam Kelley, Danielle Mancuso, Genevieve Eason, Phil Lauria, Deborah Low, Michael O'Connell, Cathy Pierce, Christine Tenore

Absent: Ann Mitrone

Special Guest: Patricia Wernig, Stay at Home Wilton

Chairman Judy Zucker called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.



Upon motion by Pam Kelley, seconded by Deborah Low, the minutes from the March 2016 and April 2016 meetings were approved as amended.

Directors Report

Cathy discussed a recent communication from the First Selectman regarding a State proposal to regionalize town services, particularly human resources and finance functions. Cathy explained the concept is primarily a cost saving idea, modeled on the Educational Service Centers established regionally, but she asked the Commissioners to be aware of potential future impacts.

Cathy thanked the Kiwanis Club for donating one week of Summer Camp at the Wilton YMCA for 9 children of clients.

Cathy shared an issue regarding the potential use of office space in Comstock, on an on-going basis, for a local, Husky-authorized social worker.

Cathy mentioned the power outage the previous weekend, which led to extensive spoilage in the Food Pantry.

A short discussion ensued regarding scholarship funding for childcare at the Wilton YMCA for clients.

Nominating Committee Report

Judy Zucker proposed the following slate of officers for the 2016 – 2017 term, to be voted upon at the June 2016 meeting:

- Chairman – Deborah Low
- Vice Chairman – Phil Lauria
- Secretary – Mike O'Connell

Special Topic Discussion – Hoarding, the Essential Issues

Judy Zucker, in place of Bary Bogle who was ill and unable to attend, and Cathy Pierce led an extensive discussion around the topic of hoarding and its impact upon the Wilton community.

Cathy began by providing background on hoarding – 5% of the population at large has tendencies; it's acknowledged in the 2015 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5); and a recent bill was passed by the CT legislature to explore the topic at the state level, driven by increased awareness of health, safety, and fire issues associated with the condition.



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Cathy reviewed the diagnosis and causes of the disorder and outlined existing and developing treatment options, along with research in the field. In response to a question from a Commissioner, Cathy detailed the primary treatment options, primarily focused on intensive 1-1 counseling, either through trained professionals or locally organized specialty companies, as no existing medication has been found to help with the symptoms.

Cathy outlined the notification process for local agencies, progressing from neighbors to health / sanitation departments, to the fire department. She discussed the services available from the Department of Mental Health and Addictive Services (DMHAS), the Stamford-based organization that provides local support. She emphasized social isolation as one of the most prevalent contributors to the condition and harm reduction as the primary goal of specific intervention efforts.

Liaison Report:

Wilton Youth Council – Deborah Low. Deb reported the financial status of the Youth Council is strong. The organization is developing plans for their 2016-2017 season, focused on youth groups, parent connections, class projects, and outreach connections. She particularly called out the evolving connection with Silver Hill Hospital, as demonstrated by the recent Opiate Awareness Seminar.

Norwalk Hospital Outreach – Phil Lauria. Phil followed-up with the Commissioners from a recent discussion topic regarding establishing better connections with the community health center affiliated with Norwalk Hospital. Phil scheduled a meeting with Craig Glover and will report back at a later time the results of his discussion.

Other Business

Judy Zucker reminded the Commissioners the June meeting would be held at Deborah Low's home (40 Pipers Hill) and begin at 5pm. She mentioned the Commission traditionally does not formally meet in July or August.

Judy Zucker invited all the Commissioners to the Comstock Open House on May 18, 2016 from 10am – 2pm.

Upon motion to adjourn made by Christine Tenore, seconded by Pam Kelley, and unanimously approved, the meeting ended at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael O'Connell, Secretary