

**Commission on Social Services
Minutes – September 17, 2009**

Attending: Susan Chalons-Browne, Cathy Pierce, Peg Koellmer, Beth Mason, Steve Lanza, Ed Raposa, George Ciaccio, Richard Creeth, Elaine Abrams

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

The June 11, 2009 minutes were approved.

Guest Speakers

1) **George Ciaccio, chairman of Wilton Commons, and Richard Creeth, Board of Selectmen liaison to Wilton Commons,** reviewed the 10-year history of the project and updated the Commission on its present status. In spite of strong support from the Town, and over \$2 million raised from private donations, more funding is required before construction can begin. With the Dana property option expiring in 2010, and the need for State support (in the form of stimulus funding for shovel-ready projects) as yet unmet, a sense of deep frustration and urgency was expressed. The Wilton Commons committee will continue efforts to meet with Governor Rell to make the case that the project will benefit the State by saving money and creating jobs.

2) **Elaine Abrams, R.N., certified Health Educator and Community Health Coordinator for Nursing and Home Care, and member of Wilton's Flu Response Team,** reported to the Commission on the procedures which have been established to handle any outbreaks of the H1N1 flu that may occur this fall, including distribution and administration of the flu vaccine to priority groups and others in the community. Her estimate is that Wilton is "way ahead of the curve" and ready for all eventualities. Information is available to the public on the Town's website www.wiltonct.org/fluresponseteam.

Director's Report

Cathy Pierce reported that the Food Pantry continued to be heavily used throughout July and August, and that there is now a need to establish early evening and weekend hours for clients who are unable to come for food during weekdays. The department's report on additional activities during August, and announcements of upcoming activities for the Senior Center, Senior Services, and Youth Services, are attached.

Old/New Business

It was agreed that discussion of term expirations and liaison position assignments would be postponed until the October meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

