

Human Services Commission Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2016

Attendance:

Commissioners: Ed Horne, Bob Galan, Dick Sallick, Yvonne Senturia, Peter Powell, and Laura Fishman

Staff: Sarah Heath, Susan Pfister, Elaine Daignault, and Kristen Witt

Minutes: The minutes of October 11, 2016 were approved.

Committee Reports:

Sue Pfister reported that the **CSA Enhancement Committee** met with the architects from A and R to discuss integration of work done in needs assessment into the design phase. There will be a community meeting at WCSA on Sunday, November 13 to provide attendees with updating and to involve them in the planning process.

Regarding the **Commission on People with Disabilities**, **Elaine** reported that so far seven prospective Commissioners have been selected from various backgrounds and these are being reviewed by the First Selectman. The goal of a January meeting of the new Commission has been proposed with Jim Ross as the Chair. Parents of adults with disabilities are being interviewed.

Guest:

Katherine Daniel, Planning and Zoning Planner provided an update on affordable housing and provided a handout on Westport Housing. She described 8-30g, its requirements and where Westport stands in meeting them. She noted that P and Z is currently updating our plan of conservation and development. There was discussion of options for managing the process of development.

Chairman's Comments:

Ed reported on a conversation with Barbara over potential uses of the Barbara Butler Fund, how it would relate to Department programs and other existing funds and scholarships.

He also noted that there are three openings on the Commission and mentioned possible appointments under consideration.

Commissioners expressed our appreciation and admiration for Ed's leadership over the years, for his eloquence in addressing the public and his effective perseverance and gentility.

New Business:

Bob Galan was elected as Chairman of the Commission by consensus and graciously accepted the position.

Department Report:

Renters Rebate - A total of 107 households are serviced, an increase of nine over the prior year.

Energy Assistance - for oil, gas and electricity an increase in applications is expected. At present there are 1655 clients served.

Holiday Program - Distribution of gifts will be held at Toquet Hall on December 5.

United Way Grant for Child Care - Elaine reported that twelve children from ten families, grades K-5 are receiving after-school care or full-time care for preschool children.

Transportation - Options for cost-effective contracting for transportation services are being considered. Information is being gathered from other towns on their arrangements as well as with Uber, ITN, and local taxis.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Sallick