

Commission for Senior Services Meeting

Friday, April 19, 2013

Westport Town Hall

Attendance: Howard Maynard, Gene Cederbaum, Stan Nayer, Sharon Rosen, Mike Stashower, Bob McGrath

Guests: Bill Meyer, RTM Health and Human Services, Herb Podell, Chairman of the Home Owners Association, Steve Edwards, Public Works Director

Staff: Susan Pfister, Susanne Lebrija, and Sarah Cocker

**Minutes:**

The Minutes of March 15, 2013 were approved.

**New Business:**

**Baron's Senior Housing Update** – Report by Sharon Rosen on the Baron's South public meeting last Tuesday. Five bidders, some proposed assisted living, now two contenders. – Jonathan Rose and Transcon

**Saugatuck Roof** – Steve Edward, Director of Public Works for 28 years spoke of the roof situation at The Saugatuck. The STEAD Grant must be administered by the Town to oversee. The Town goes to the Board of Finance for approval. Then it goes to bid to get a better estimate. Engineer will do the estimate of the cost. Main roof constructed in the 1930's. The other part was done when building was cooped. (17 years?) The Commission discussed the Town process and degree of the proper bidding process. Must build a cushion into the project so that unforeseen damage and work can be done. Need to expedite the process. The Commission is sympathetic with the need of the Saugatuck and agrees with the process Steve is following. All commend Steve as a real Town asset. Steve also mentioned the fact that if the project goes over budget, the owners are responsible for the difference.

Herb Podell is concerned that they might lose the grant. Jonathan Steinberg will do what he can to support the project. Our Commission should support the project and be at the Board of Finance meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8PM. Questions: What if project costs more than the grant of \$300,000? How much can the Coop borrow and pay off the cost over the \$300,000. Ask Jonathan Steinberg to work with Steve Edwards.

**Old Business:**

**Budget** –Barbara Butler, Sarah Cocker, and Kevin Godburn went to the Board of Finance meeting. The 2013-14 DHS budget was approved.

**Department Report:**

**Sue Lebrija** – Discussed the current programs – tax relief and the energy assistance programs. **AARP Tax Assistance Program** - The AARP Tax Assistance program saw a 10% increase in people serviced.

**CT Money School/Seniors** – Twenty eight people attended the Thurs. 4/18 session. This is a great program!

**Senior Center Policy and Planning Board** – A survey was mailed in a *new Perspective* and it went out to 4,400 homes.

**Friends of the Center for Senior Activities** – All good things; applauded the current Board. There will be new officers.

Upcoming Events include:

- Ice Cream Social – TBD

There will be a new "Friends" newsletter. Editor is Gloria Stashower. Mike Stashower is out funding.

Next meeting of the Commission –Friday, May 17, 2013

Submitted by Stan Nayer