

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, November 10, 2015

Attendance:

Commissioners: Ed Horne, Laura Fishman, Bob Galan, Kristin LaFleur, Pete Powell, Dick Sallick,
Yvonne Senturia

Staff: Barbara Butler, Sarah Heath, Elaine Daignault, Sue Pfister

Minutes:

The minutes of the October 13, 2015 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

The visit to Sasco Creek and Hidden Brook was reviewed along with discussion of the operations of the Housing Authority and Millennium Management. Homes With Hope and DHS staff provide the only human services available to tenants. The low tenant turnover rate results in a six year waiting list for apartments. The shortage of affordable housing as well as that for associated social services was recognized.

It was noted that some clergy who had been proponents of addressing social needs in the community have retired and Ed will call attention to this at the next clergy meeting.

Update on P&Z Open Space:

Proposed amendment for Dedicated Open Space was distributed. A lame duck session has been scheduled. The new Commission meets in December.

CSA Enhancement Planning Committee has met twice. Research groups were set up to establish and prioritize needs for specific functions and activities. The current 55-64 age group is the demographic which is targeted. Statistics on demographic trends for Westport were distributed. How to address and involve the community at large in developing the plan is a priority.

New Business:

Department Report:

Elaine Daignault described and reported on the Student Outreach Counselor Program and the process of filling the vacancy resulting from the death of Chris Lemone who had crafted the program over a nineteen year period. His report on 2014/2015 activities and statistics on services as well as his activities and future goals was distributed and discussed. Elaine is currently working to maintain necessary services as work is underway to fill the vacancy.

Sarah Heath reported that for December Holiday Programs more than \$4,000 has already been received for the benefit of clients in need. Two hundred families we work with will benefit from gift cards over Thanksgiving.

A \$20,000 donation from an anonymous donor has been received fifteen thousand of which is designated for families in need and five thousand for the needs of senior clients.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Sallick