

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, December 8, 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

Guests: Jennifer Fava, Jeff Wieser, Homes with Hope

Minutes:

The minutes of the November 10, 2015 meeting were approved.

New Business:

Guest: Jennifer Fava, Director, Westport Parks and Recreation

Jennifer cited the importance of collaboration in her new position and her wish to establish common goals with DHS. She is meeting with leaders in the town and, seeking knowledge of the community and its traditions as well as feedback on her ideas. She reflected on the scope of her Department noting different functions of Parks and Recreation. She has formed committees to examine needs and set priorities. DHS priorities discussed included summer beach programs and available facilities, REcing Crew, use of volunteers, and recreational activities.

Old Business:

Update on P&Z Open Space - a text amendment will be presented at the December 17 meeting of P & Z. Cathy Walsh is chairing the Senior Housing Subcommittee meetings.

CSA Enhancement Planning Committee - Sue Pfister noted that work group reports regarding current needs and constraints are mostly complete and will be used to formulate a Phase I report to be submitted to the Board of Selectman.

A "meet and greet" event to include a presentation of current Senior Center programs is scheduled for Sunday January 31 to which leadership from town and community organizations will be invited.

Department Report:

Barbara noted that four new commissioners have been appointed to the Senior Services Commission.

Energy Assistance/Westport Warmup Fund: Sarah reported that we have been receiving about four new applications daily. At present there are 121 households receiving assistance and so far \$4,000 in new donations has been received.

Student Outreach Counselor Program: Elaine reported that referrals have been high. She is covering these Monday through Thursday and Sarah on Friday. A meeting is scheduled with the First Selectman and the Budget Director tomorrow to request approval to fill the Outreach Counselor position. Evening and weekend hours are needed for TAG fundraisers.

Commission on People with Disabilities: A copy of a report submitted to the First Selectman recommending establishment was distributed.

Holiday Program - Gift Cards will be presented at Toquet Hall to children of DHS clients. Westport Woman's Club has contributed 217 Stop and Shop cards. \$1000 donation from Assumption Church and \$4,000 donation from Hurlbutt Foundation

FY 2016-17 budget process - A handout for BOF about the Department budget was distributed. The new budget request will include funds for WCSA enhancement and modification of the outreach counselor position.

Respectfully submitted, Dick Sallick