

**Minutes Commission for Senior Services Meeting  
Friday, March 2, 2012  
Westport Town Hall**

**Attendance:** Gene Cederbaum, Teri Klein, Howard Maynard, Robert McGrath, Stan Nayer, and Sharon Rosen  
**Guests:** Marjolijn Wijsenbeek, Director L.I.N.K.S  
Bill Meyer, RTM  
**Staff:** Barbara Butler, Susan Pfister, Terry Giegengack, Susan Lebrija, Susan Stefenson

**Minutes:** The minutes of February 3, 2012 approved.

**Old Business:**

**ITN Coastal CT. Senior Transportation/ Update.** A meeting of the ITN Advisory Council has been scheduled at the Center for Senior Activities on March 30, 2012. The program is functioning well. Additional requests for rides continue to be received. Volunteer drivers age 25 and over are still needed. Program continues to submit grant requests for additional funding.

**Westport Warm-up Fund Advisory Committee**

Funds raised from the community have been very helpful. On February 15 a mailing was done by the Westport Woman's Club to local businesses. Donations range from \$5.00 up. To date \$73,000 has been raised. Last year 279 households applied. Funds can be carried over to next year. Energy audits are being conducted on those who qualify. A question was raised by Gene Cederbaum re: contacting oil companies for discounts. This has been explored by the committee. Oil companies need payments to be processed quicker before they will reduce funding. They will make emergency deliveries. Stan Nayer pointed out that Santa Company is one exception that will reduce funding. It was suggested that this company be recognized at the annual meeting. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for March 14, 2012.

**Baron's South Senior Housing Update** The committee is continuing to receive many proposals in response to the RFP which has been sent out. The responses are due by the end of March. They will then be reviewed in depth.

**Budget 2012 -13 update.** Barbara Butler reported that the budget request which was kept flat received a very positive reception from the Board of Finance. Next it will be submitted to the RTM Health and Human Services Committee.

**New Business:**

Director Marjolijn Wijsenbeek of L.I.N.K.S Connections for Independent Living presented an overview. The program was launched last Sunday, February 26th at the Unitarian Church in Westport. Over hundred people attended. L.I.N.K.S is based on the original Beacon Hill model of Aging in Place. The focus is to help people coordinate their own long-term care and to support an independent life style as long as possible. L.I.N.K.S. is developing cooperative integrated connections with other agencies in Westport and Weston to complement each other in this work. All providers will be vetted. Their target population in Westport is somewhat different than that of the Department of Human Services and the anticipation is that this organization will meet the need of some seniors that may not contact the Department of Human Services. They hope to be sustainable in 3-5 years. Additional information is available at [www.linksconnections.org](http://www.linksconnections.org).

## Staff Reports:

**Center for Senior Activities Director** The Center is getting many new members as they are bringing in groups such as the Y's men, and ITN to use the meeting facilities. The new calendar for April-June is available. For the first time, a late registration fee has been instituted. Holly, the registered dietician has been conducting classes in nutrition. Andre Brooks has suggested that a request for outdoor physical education equipment be submitted to Parks and Recreation. Stan Nayer will follow-up. They are "cautiously optimistically" moving toward social media such as Face book and Linked in.

**Municipal Agent** Working on staying ahead of the curve.

**Assistant Director Client Services** The focus is on "learned independence". Case work is steady. Work continues to access benefits in heating assistance. The recent shelter training with C.E.R.T. and the Red Cross was well attended. The focus is to develop plans for long term sheltering in case this is needed. The CT Money School (CMS) completed a successful series of workshops. Plans are underway for next year's CMS programs.

## Committee Reports

**Human Services Commission** – Is working on similar projects as the Commission of Senior Services  
**Senior Center Policy and Planning Board** - Planning is underway for the Friendship Golf Tournament with students and seniors.

**Friends of the Center for Senior Activities** Stan Nayer received the well deserved outstanding senior award recognizing all of his excellent service in our community. The friends have received a \$10,000 grant from AT & T to continue their programs.

**Housing –the Saugatuck.** Meeting with Herb Podell. Things are OK at present time.

**Legislation** - Good support from our representatives.

**Area Agency for Aging (SWCAA)** - Training provided for new changes in regulations. Focus on helping problem solve for clients.

Next Meeting April 6, 2012

Submitted: Teri Klein