

WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES

May 21, 2014

In attendance: Joan Haines (Co-Chair), Natalie Morrison (P & R), Chris Taylor (S & Y), Lee Sekas, Terry Hulbert, Elaine Zieller, Susan Buckland, Phil Knecht, Barbara Blejewski, Joselyn Valente.

- Joan Haines brought the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She welcomed members and the coach, mentors and families of the JETS club. She discussed their winning design and production of a device to aid and assist an individual working at CW Resources. This device helped the individual expand their work capabilities. Joan presented the group with a plaque and refreshments were served.
- Public Comments: Lee Sekas mentioned that would discuss an item when we got to the Transportation section.
- The minutes of May 21, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Barbara Blejewski to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Terry Hulbert. The motion passed.
- Natalie Morrison discussed the activities of the Group Homes in Town. She has 11 residents participating in the Regional Special Olympic Track and Field Tournament and will go on to the State Games.
- Chris Taylor reported that the Senior Center "Happy Trails" May 19th event was held at the Pitkin Community Center. Approximately 80 people came to the event and enjoyed everything.
- Chris Taylor advised the committee that the Social & Youth Services Department is just wrapping up the Renter's Rebate program.
- Natalie Morrison commented that thru Parks and Recreation provide April vacation programs, we sent 35 (youths and adults) to Special Olympic Regional Games. The majority of them will go on to the Summer Games in June. The Torch Run will take place on June 5th. The athletes continue to train. We are planning a fundraising "Paint Night" for June 18th. Summer program registration has begun. Safe Grad Overnight Party is scheduled for June 24th. Sept 28th is the annual Roaring Thunder Motorcycle event in the fall to benefit Special Olympics. TR Summer picnic is planned for July 9th. Joan suggested to donate \$100 towards the picnic. Barbara Blejewski motioned and Terry Hulbert seconded it. Motion passed.
- Joan Haines stated that there is no treasurer's report.
- Chris Taylor reported that the Dial-A-Ride renewal applications were sent out and need to be returned by July 1st. (\$78 per year.)
- Phil Knecht complained that he was not able to use the service as it is only for doctors and shopping. ADA is different and it was suggested that Phil attend the Alternative Transportation meeting on May 30th. Also it was suggested he try the Yellow Cab if needed. And there is also a "Freedom Voucher" program.
- Lee was asking about new "shopping stops" for the Dial-A-Ride service. He also contacted Stacey Hodges of the Chamber of Commerce regarding the Firework Fundraiser bus trip to Mohegan. He complained that the bus was not handicapped accessible and he was not able to

go. Stacey told him that the bus was already contracted and she would look into it for the next time.

- Next meeting is June 18 at 7pm. Town Hall Manager's Conference Room.
- Terry Hulbert motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Joan Haines. Motion passed – meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted by
Natalie Morrison
Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor