

Wethersfield Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Meeting Minutes of 9/15/10

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Members present: Barbara Blejewski, Frank Meunier, Jr., Jim Grise, Kathleen Sullivan, Joan Haines, Christine Taylor, Tina Carciello, Natalie Morrison

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian O'Connor – Chief Building and Zoning Official, 860-721-2840

Brian oversees all building accessibility for the Town of Wethersfield. He has a background in construction and is an avid volunteer of Americares. He enforces building code on new buildings and existing buildings under renovation. There are state and national standards that he must refer to in order for buildings to meet current standards for accessibility. All new buildings, as well as, those with a change of use are required to meet these standards. 1-2 families don't fall under these accessibility requirements. Twenty percent of renovation costs must be utilized to improve accessibility. The state does provide a waiver process and certain exemptions for registered historic houses and hardships.

ADA Coordinator is responsible for municipal buildings only. Surveys of town buildings are done to ensure that they meet current standards.

CVS – issue of best accessibility for those with disabilities.

The number of spaces, width and access to ramp all meet the intent of accessibility. The design meets code standards. It was suggested that petitions could be sent to the district manager. Restriping parking spots may make it more accommodating for persons with special needs.

Brian stated that winter snow removal issues could be addressed to the Police Dept.

III. Minutes of June 16, 2010

Joan Haines moved we accept the minutes. Natalie Morrison 2nd the motion.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. GROUP HOME VISITS – Boilers are being replaced at 117 Wells Rd.

(First Church Village). There are 7 new adults participating in the Special Olympics Bowling program from Village Lane.

B. SENIORS – Rebate Program ended on 9/15. CRT energy assistance is set to begin. On October 28th, there will be a heating assistant to help with the program. It is for home owners and renters that meet the income criteria.

Oil customers should come soon so that they may begin receiving assistance. Call Social & Youth Services at 860-721-2977.

CT Homecare for Disabled Program – pilot programs for 50 individuals. The program is available for home services for adults 18 – 64 with degenerative illnesses and do not qualify for other services. Those with cognitive deficits and need assistance with 2 of 4 critical daily needs may also apply.

Central CT Health District will be giving flu shots on October 12th from 9am – 12pm and November 4th from 3 pm – 6 pm. \$25/flu shots; \$40/pneumonia shots. You may also access Rocky Hill and Newington sites since they are towns covered under the Central CT Health District.

- C. Parks and Recreation – The picnic held on Wednesday, July 14th had a minimum of 75 attendees. The 5th Annual Roaring Thunder ride to benefit Special Olympics took in over \$5,300.00. The Special Olympics Bocce and Golf programs just ended the season during the first week of September. The Special Olympics – Golf program sent 5 teams to compete at Sleeping Giant Golf Course on Sunday, September 12 in Hamden, CT. They placed 1st, 2nd (2 teams) and 3rd (2 teams) in their divisions. The Special Olympics Bowling Programs and Basketball programs started the season during the 2nd week of September. The Adult and youth programs are ongoing and have a fall/winter schedule in place. The next fundraiser has begun – butterbraid and cookie dough. The Santa Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th. MDC is sponsoring this event. November 16th and December 14th are the annual party dates.
- D. Transportation – Registration for the year has begun. The cost is \$78. Registration is prorated. ITN (Independent Transit Network) provides transportation for seniors and adults with visual impairments. \$40 for membership; \$3 per trip. There has been some ongoing issues with pick up times and arrivals with Ambassador Transportation. GPS systems are on the vans. Drivers do always seem aware of the best routes. It will be addressed.

All other topics were held until next meeting. Frank moved to end the meeting. Kathleen 2nd the motion.