

Present: 10 Participants

The meeting began at 6:45pm

Sue Halpern mentioned she reached out to Todd Levine about the 2-windows uncovered at the Blick Building and the hole in the roof that can be seen from the front of the building.

Ted Ferrarone answered: Todd Levine has reached out to him, and he is looking into it. Ted also mentioned that someone broke into the building and spray painted.

Sue Halpern inquired with Terry Adams about the Yale & Towne building; Will it be discussed at the Board of Representatives meeting?

Terry Adams answered: He heard the owners are in court going through litigation.

Sonya Van Norden of CAAWC gave a presentation of the services currently offered by their organization:

The community action agency of western Connecticut (CAAWC) offers programs that determines qualifying incomes based on the federal poverty guidelines (FPL); these percentages range from 150% and below of FPL, 200% and below, and 300% and below. attached is a chart that reflects the FPLs for 2023-2024; they usually change yearly.

They currently have a limited amount of money available monthly (\$15,000) that can assist clients, who have been impacted by COVID, whose incomes are at or below 300% FPL. the following are the types of assistance available, in addition to rental assistance:

1. rental payments: up to 2 months short-term (going forward), up to 2 months arrearages; not to exceed \$5,000
2. mortgage payments: up to 2 months short-term (going forward), up to 2 months arrearages; not to exceed \$5,000
3. security deposit: up to 2 months, not to exceed \$5,000
4. utility payment for electric: current utility bill or arrearage, not to exceed \$500
5. utility payment for water/sewer: current bill or arrearage, past due notice, or disconnected services, not to exceed \$500
6. car repairs: needed to get to employment, medical appointments, education/training, not to exceed \$500
7. transportation fare: needed to get to employment, medical appointments, education/training, not to exceed \$100
8. food vouchers/cards: for household in crisis for food insecurity, not to exceed \$200
9. PPE/emergency hygiene products: items that are necessary for employment, medical reasons, education/training, not to exceed \$100
10. job training assistance: used for subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives, not to exceed \$750

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the following is part of their SSBG (social services block grant) program; it is not currently available; They are awaiting notification from their funder: clients who are **very vulnerable**, have incomes **150% below FPL** and engage in **case management** may be eligible for rental arrearage or security deposit assistance for amounts up to \$2,600. anyone interested in the above programs should call (203) 602-8833, ext. 301 to make an appointment with a community services specialist (case manager).

Also mentioned were their certification computer classes: IC3 (key applications, computing fundamentals, living online) and ADOBE (photoshop, illustrator, in design); brochures are attached. these courses will assist can assist people in their current jobs or help them obtain employment. while clients with incomes at 200% FPL are prioritized, classes are also available to people who may have incomes higher than 300% FPL. at registration we do ask for a \$50 deposit that is refundable at class completion.

They also offer a series of workshops for people seeking employment.

Anyone interested in computer classes or wanting to ask about workshops should contact Betty Mccree, employment coordinator at (203) 602-8833, ext. 305, bettyann.mccree@caawc.org, or Francis Acakpo, computer instructor at (203) 602-8833, ext. 404, francis.acakpo@caawc.org.

John Wooten asked if the program would help with security deposit?

Sonya answered: Yes, but you would have to go through case management you can't just come in and get the money and disappear. You would have to be covid impacted to get the money without case management.

Terry Adams asked about CAAWC being involved with the courts when in the process of being evicted?

Sonya answered: Depends on the stage of eviction. Usually, if they are on the verge of eviction many times the Landlord & the tenant can reach an agreement.

Sheila Barney asked what are the hours of operation for the classes?

Sonya answered: It is open enrollment you can choose your own hours as it depends on the individual. Classes are done online.

Elise Coleman mentioned that volunteers are needed and if interested to please reach out to her or Sonya.

Francis Gerety mentioned the construction that is going on over on Canal Street and Ludlow Street and that it is not easy to drive down some of the side streets due to traffic.

Terry Adams answered: Canal Street is pretty much cleaning up so most of the construction is on John Street. Terry advised to put in a complaint to Fix it Stamford or call 203-977-4140

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It was announced that there will be a **public hearing for the Charter Revision on June 28th@6:00pm** in person and on zoom.

Ted announced:

- that their summer events will be starting up,
- there are all sorts of activities going on in the park.
- The new restaurant Tequila on Canal Street is opening.
- The Triangle Park with the splash pad is open.

Ted asked Sue Halpern is there a schedule for the public outreach of the Local Historic District?

Sue Halpern answered: They will be sending out another mailing and letters, hopefully outreach will be completed soon.

Ted responded, “we will be looking forward to it”.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm