



SUSAN STACK
CHAIRMAN

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Human Services Commission

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DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, March 9, 2020

Recreation/Human Services Complex

Conference Room – 31 Arbor Way

6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Stack, Hocine Baouche (left at 6:45PM), Yale Cantor, Jaime Foster, Susanne Hannigan, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick (arrived at 6:18PM), Sarah Gaer (arrived at 6:30PM)

OTHERS PRESENT: Joy Hollister, Director of Human Services; Stephanie Mather, Recording Secretary; Melinda Ferry, Board of Selectmen Liaison (left at 6:50PM)

1. **Call to Order:** Susan Stack, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2020**

MOVED (FOSTER) SECONDED (BAOUCHE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2020 MEETING.

3. **Citizens' Forum:** None

4. **Director's Report:** Youth Services received a \$5,000.00 SOR grant for opioid prevention. There will be a presentation at Hall Memorial Library on March 30th on Positive Discipline for Toddlers and Preschoolers: Challenging Behaviors and Setting Limits at 6:00PM. Spirit Kindness will be held on March 17th and is focusing on theater games this month. Kristen will be doing a Safe at Home class on March 19th from 2:30-4:00PM, which is for fourth to sixth grade students. It prepares them to be safe when they are home alone. Crafty Nights is in its second session and is completely full. Leadership Challenge connects youth to community role models and is for third and fourth grade students and Peer Leadership promotes peer acceptance and is for fifth and sixth grade students. 1-2-3 Learning About Me started its new session and is completely full. It is for kindergarten students to help them learn skills on expressing their emotions. My Feelings and Me is for second and third grade students. Ok To Be Me: Supporting the LGBTQ/GNCT Community will have a workshop on April 16th at 6:00PM. Rise Above will put on a Limelight Festival April 17th at 6:00PM with a rain date of April 18th at Arbor Park. It will be a combination of an art and talent show. Youth Services and Parks and Recreation are working on their Spring brochure, which should be coming out next month. The Senior Center added Commission members emails so they can receive their

newsletter online now. Claire, the new kitchen manager, is doing a great job. The Maple Street Café has been doing really good. It is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:00AM to 12:30PM and has had a steady clientele with over twenty-five people per day. Erica Botti is the new bookkeeper and starts Wednesday. Sue will be training Erica and then she will be retiring at the end of the month. The Senior Center has been painted and looks great. March 12th at noon is the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. TED Talk is March 10th at 1:00PM. Glenn Eberly is a certified personal trainer for the Men's Fitness class. The first class on March 17th at 9:00AM will be free. There will be a five part series on having a Healthy Brain starting April 14th. History for Fun: Katharine Hepburn will be March 18th at 1:00PM. Cannabis 101 will be held March 31st at 1:00PM. A dispensary will be there to inform and answer questions about cannabis. There will be a walkers, hikers, and gardeners meeting in April. Bus transportation rules have changed. There is no two week notice requirement for clients. Human Services VITA program is going good. The delivery deadline for the energy assistance program has been extended until April 1st. There has been an increase in the number of families reaching out about different concerns for loved ones, which has increased the number of home visits. Renters Rebate will start back up in May. The Memory Café is the last Wednesday of the month at 1:00PM. Questions you should ask about Home Care is March 23rd at 6:00PM at the Ellington Senior Center. The Veteran's Coffeehouse is March 19th at 10:30AM at the Library. There were no issues with the budget from the Board of Selectmen meeting. The Board of Finance meeting for the budget will be on March 17th. Earth Day will be celebrated on April 25th. There has been an increase in use of the Little Food Pantry. The Food Bank is doing good. Joy was on a phone conference that the Governor held discussing the Coronavirus. They would like to limit less than 100 people for gatherings. 211 opened a line for just the Coronavirus. In just the first two days they received 350 calls. Discussion about how to handle concerns with the Coronavirus and how to prepare for it.

5. **Unfinished Business:** None

6. **New Business:**

- a. **Review of Community Survey questions:** The Community Survey would be available to community members online and hard copies would be available at Human Services and the Senior Center. There was a discussion about what type of website should be used to make the surveys, such as SurveyMonkey and Google Forms. Commission members will review the survey and discuss changes at the next meeting.

7. **Adjournment:**

MOTION (FOSTER) SECONDED (HANNIGAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 6:57PM.

Submitted By:

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Stephanie Mather, Recording Secretary