



# TOWN OF SUFFIELD

MEETING MINUTES SUFFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 - 8:30 AM

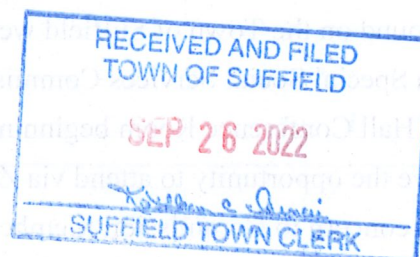
HELD VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Call recording available on Town website under Social Services Commission (SSC)

Commission Members Present: Marcia Dufore-Chair, Robin Zatony-Vice Chair, Kathy Bielonko, Nathan Prusi, and Andrea (Chace) Wessling

Department Heads Present: Colin Moll – 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman  
Bill Hawkins – Planning and Development Director  
Kathleen Powers – Youth Services Director  
Kimberly Emmons – Suffield Housing Authority  
Kerry O'Brien – Suffield Housing Authority  
Peter Leclerc – Director of Community Services

1. Chair Marcia Dufore called the meeting to order at 8:33 am. Current Commission members and department heads introduced themselves. New member, Kathy Bielonko, introduced herself to the Commission and Chair Marcia Dufore provided some background on new commission member, Sharon Bruno, who was unable to attend the meeting.
2. The minutes from the May 12, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Andrea (Chace) Wessling made a motion to amend the minutes as follows: "Item 6b should read: Suffield Equity Profile discussion. There is a need for better understanding the needs of the community." Robin Zatony seconded the motion. Kathy Bielonko abstained. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment - NO PUBLIC COMMENT
4. Welcome and introductions:
  - a. Colin Moll – 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman stated there are appointments ending in November 2022. All Commission members would like to continue their commitment with the Commission.
  - b. Peter Leclerc – Director of Community Services has a new staff member. The Commission would like to keep Peter as a contact for his department and would appreciate his informing the Commission of any updates or needs regarding Community Services. He agreed.
  - c. Suffield Senior Center – current programs running and being offered will be provided in the monthly reports. Chair Marcia Dufore will send Peter Leclerc a couple emails from past reports from Paula Pascoe where she spoke about the Senior Center and Minibus. Peter Leclerc shared that there are several programs being offered. One is Suffield Community Aid that is very popular with the residents. Residents are coming in for a mobility class. The lunches being offered are having a very high turnout. It is also a wonderful social event. They are looking for a way to purchase another vehicle for resident transportation and will also need a driver. Senior Center participation has increased greatly in recent weeks.



5. Department Reports – it is suggested that Director’s reports be sent to Commission members prior to the meeting for their review therefore not needing an extensive report during the meeting.
  - a. Suffield Youth Services — Kathleen Powers — There were a lot of programs offered and attended during the summer. On September 20, 2022 a new program begins. Youth Services is looking for a new intern for the 2022-2023 school year, which is a paid position. Suffield Local Prevention Council is looking for volunteers to help at events on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 12 pm to 3:00 pm and on Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. If any Commission members are available to help at either of those times, it would be greatly appreciated. The 13 sectors were also discussed which is part of the Local Prevention Council. There is a big need for parents and representatives from all 13 sectors to be involved in the council. There is already someone from the ambulance association and police department involved. Youth Services has received extra funding which will be discussed at the Special Social Services Commission meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2023 at the Suffield Town Hall to see how best to help the youth in the community. Commission members unable to attend in person will have the opportunity to join via Zoom. There is an opportunity to receive significant federal funding in the future.
  - b. Suffield Community Aid – everyone received Danielle’s report
  - c. Suffield Senior Center - refer to item 4c
  - d. Suffield Housing Authority – Kimberly Emmons shared that they are at full capacity and the wait list is closed at this time. They have received 30 applicants and would like to place as many as possible. It is hoped to reopen this in the beginning of 2023. Currently the advocate and help people when they call.
6. Old Business
  - a. Bill Hawkins - Director of Planning and Development spoke in detail about affordable housing. The Board of Selectmen adopted the Affordable Housing Plan in May 2022. The luxury apartment plan at Fyler Place which contained 45 apartments was not affordable. The project did not go through. There is a possibility for affordable housing development on 3 acres of property in town that will need all needed utilities. Access for emergency vehicles to reach residents is a key component for that property. Planning and Zoning regulations regarding Affordable Housing was discussed.
  - b. Affordable Housing Plan fact sheet for sharing at Suffield on the Green, September 10-11, will be available at the Suffield Community Aid booth. Are any members available to discuss?
7. New Business
  - a. Consideration of other sources of Suffield data for setting priorities and action plans. The Youth Survey Results is on the Board of Education agenda for discussion on September 19, 2022. The full report can be found on the Town of Suffield website under Youth Services.
  - b. There will be a Special Social Services Commission meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2022 in the Suffield Town Hall Conference Room beginning at 8:30 am. Commission Members unable to attend in person will have the opportunity to attend via Zoom.
  - c. Other issues of concern to Commission Members – Nate Prusi said that he may not be able to make the special meeting in October.

7. New Business (continued):

- d. Hybrid Meeting Schedule going forward – after a brief discussion with Commission Members, Vice Chair Robin Zatony stated that she felt there is a need to have monthly meetings. All members present agreed with Robin.
  - e. Updated Social Services Commission Directory – Chair Marcia DuFore asked that Commission members send her any corrections.
8. Robin Zatony made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) held via Zoom on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 9:38 am. Andrea (Chace) Wessling seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) will be a Special Meeting held at the Suffield Town Hall Conference Room on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 8:30 am. Commission members unable to attend in person will have the opportunity to attend via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk  
Commission Members  
Department Heads