



# TOWN OF SUFFIELD

## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES SUFFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

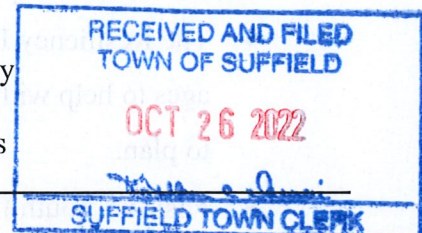
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022 - 8:30 AM

HELD AT SUFFIELD TOWN HALL/HYBRID TELECONFERENCE

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

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

Department Heads Present: Colin Moll – 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman  
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 special meeting to order at 8:41 am.
2. The minutes from the September 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Robin Zatony made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Andrea (Chace) Wessling seconded the motion. Sharon Bruno abstained. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment - NO PUBLIC COMMENT
4. Welcome and introductions:
  - a. New Commission member, Sharon Bruno introduced herself to the Commission. Current Commission members and department heads introduced themselves.
5. Old Business
  - a. Affordable Housing Plan flyer – Chair Marcia DuFore asked Commission members for suggestions on other places to put the flyer. They are currently available at the library and Planning & Zoning office. Copies will be made available at the Senior Center. Vice Chair Robin Zatony is looking for help in producing future copies with less cost. The PDF file will be sent to the town office to help with this.
  - b. Updated Directory – please check to ensure that your information is complete.
6. New Business
  - a. Update on Board of Education meeting regarding the Youth Survey Results – the results were presented to the Board of Education. Kate Powers handed out a flyer showing the results of the survey. On November 3, 2022 from 6:30-8:00 there will be a presentation on Narcan. Kate urged members to attend to help gain an understanding of how to use Narcan.
  - b. Youth Services with plan for American Rescue Plan funding – Youth Services has received ARPA funds of \$100,000. Youth Services seeks to expand programming for youth affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. These funds will be expended over the next four years. Kate Powers would like to use the funding to increase programs. They have also received DCF funding and will be hiring someone part time to help. The Local Prevention Council is looking for volunteers, especially parents. They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Youth Center. On October 17 a program called “Chasing Childhood” is being offered to families. It is about letting kids be kids. It will begin at 6 pm with tacos being offered at the Senior Center. After dinner, Dr. Farrell a Clinical Psychologist will speak with

b. (continued) adults about the program and any children in attendance can go to Youth Center for activity. The movie, “Chasing Childhood,” is available to watch virtually from October 1 through November 1. Chair Marcia DuFore asked how the Commission can help Youth Services be more successful. Future programs being offered include:

- The Resiliency Program teaches children about what’s next. It is a mental health program for all ages to help with coping. A Youth Advisory Board will meet at school during flex for a short time to plan.
- Positive Youth Development and Job Readiness – will meet at school on Tuesdays. There were also lots of summer programs offered. There was a 3 part series on job readiness to youth aged 14-16 years old. They are looking for fun and interesting activities for the youth.
- Healthy Relationships and Family Connection - They plan to work with 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade youth to build healthy relationships. The youth deal with a lot of stress and anxiety. There are plans to create family activities for parents and their children, even including multi-generational. Family nights with Parks & Rec was also discussed.

Peter Leclerc – Director of Community Services – spoke of the promoting of Parks and Rec which happens through a database, social media, and digital backpack. They are utilizing the observer for “advertising” and look to offer programs monthly. There is a high school radio station and Sharon Bruno asked if there is a way to utilize this for advertising. Parks and Rec along with Youth Services had their first podcast. They were contacted by a resident to attend an event discussed. Events are shared through town news, on the suffieldrec.com website, and opt into emails. Is there a way to build a more comprehensive email list to residents?

7. The next Social Services Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at the Town Hall with a Zoom option available at 8:30 am. The Commission will meet monthly going forward. Department heads will send their reports bimonthly. Commission members are asked to please read their reports to alleviate in depth reports at meetings.
8. Robin Zatony made a motion to adjourn the special meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) held on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 9:40 am. Andrea (Chace) Wessling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk  
Commission Members  
Department Heads