



Town of Suffield

Social Services Commission

Thursday, November 10, 2022 - 8:30 AM Meeting Minutes

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 Zatory-Vice Chair, Sharon Bruno, and Andrea (Chace) Wessling

Department Heads Present: Colin Moll – 1st Selectman
Danielle Annibalini – Suffield Community Aid
Peter Leclerc – Director of Community Services

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1. Chair Marcia DuFore called the meeting to order at 8:36 am. Chair Marcia DuFore made a motion to add accepting the resignation of Pam Sinofsky and accepting the 2023 meeting schedule. Robin Zatory seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 2. The minutes from the September 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Robin Zatory made a motion to amend the minutes as follows: Kerry O'Brien's name should be Debra Krut. Sharon Bruno seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 3. Public Comment - NO PUBLIC COMMENT
 4. Welcome and introductions.
 5. Department Reports:
 - a. Kate Powers – Suffield Youth Services was unable to make the meeting, however her report was emailed to Commission members.
 - b. Danielle Annibalini – Suffield Community Aid shared that they are preparing for winter and the energy assistance program. The biggest challenge they are facing is the soaring of fuel costs and that the state program has lowered the benefit. Suffield has a good supply at this time to help others. They are also looking for volunteers to ring bells for the Salvation Army. Danielle will reach out to Nate to see if the Boy Scouts would be interested in volunteering for that or having a food drive to help seniors.
 - c. Peter Leclerc – Suffield Senior Center – the current staff is maxed out with lots of work. They have hired two new qualified drivers for the minibus. This should help greatly with passenger needs in town. Fuel costs are a challenge. There is no kitchen report. Lunches are at a steady number, and it is a challenge to keep the cost at \$5 per person. A painting class, trips, and IT night were events that filled up quickly. A survey will be going out at the end of the month for used services.
 6. Old Business
 - a. Affordable Housing Plan flyer – working on printing more copies at an affordable price. Dunkin' Donuts and Highland Park Market were suggested places to put the flyers. Chair Marcia DuFore spoke of a book club and reading the book, Addicted, which could open the dialogue for affordable housing and gaining insight from residents. First Selectman Colin Moll spoke of the forming of an Affordable Housing Committee, which would have five people.

(#6 Old Business continued)

- b. Updated Directory – please check to ensure that your information is complete. An updated copy will be sent to Commission members prior to the December 8, 2022 meeting.

7. New Business

- a. Avenues for distribution of town news – Sharon Bruno discussed at last month’s meeting about the need of having multiple sources for town residents. Suffield Parks & Rec has a podcasts on YouTube. To find it, go to the YouTube website and search Suffield Parks & Rec. Anyone can go to their website to opt into their newsletters.
 - b. Food security issues – a profile was sent to Commission members and Department heads. Peter Leclerc will check with the kitchen staff and other department heads about the needs in town. Sacred Heart collects items monthly. Peter Leclerc said that there will be a table set up on the event on December 2, with a rain date of December 9, to collect donations from 5:30-8:00 pm. The Boy Scouts will be asked about a food drive. Sharon Bruno, Robin Zatory, and Chair Marcia DuFore offered to help. These types of events need to be added on social media. There is a need for desserts for Seniors at Thanksgiving. Suffield Sportsmen’s Association will possibly make a monetary donation.
 - c. Robin Zatory made a motion to accept the resignation of Pam Sinofsky from the board. Sharon Bruno seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - d. Sharon Bruno made a motion to accept the 2023 Calendar dates held monthly, except for the month’s of July and August when the Commission will not meet. Robin Zatory seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - e. Sharon Bruno attended the Narcan training and said that it was a great program that should be offered more often. Peter Leclerc said that Narcan is not just for opioid overdosed but an also happen with someone mixing medications and not realizing the effects. They are looking to scheduling something again to help our seniors.
 - f. Chair Marcia DuFore said that the “Chasing Childhood” presentation had a great turnout. It was very well received. Congratulations to Kate on a job well done!
8. The next meeting for the Suffield Social Services Commission will be held Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the Town Hall with a Zoom option available and will spotlight on Senior Services. Robin Zatory made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. Sharon Bruno seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk, Commission Members, Department Heads