



Town of Suffield

Social Services Commission

Thursday, January 12, 2023 - 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 Zatony-Vice Chair, Ann Bauchiero, Kathy Bielonko, Sharon Bruno, and Andrea (Chace) Wessling

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

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1. Vice Chair Robin Zatony called the meeting to order at 8:32 am. Commission Members and Department Heads listed above introduced themselves.
 2. The minutes from the December 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Colin Moll made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sharon Bruno seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 3. Public Comment - NO PUBLIC COMMENT
 4. Welcome and introductions. Ann Bauchiero is a new member of the Commission. She introduced herself and shared that she is interested in the Prevention Group, is a Physician's Assistant, has worked in New York City, and learned how to get people the support services they needed.
 5. Department Reports
 - a. Suffield Youth Services – no one present to give a report.
 - b. Suffield Community Aid – Danielle Annibalini said that the Suffield Alight was a big success and thanks Commission Members who attended. They have received 180 applications for fuel assistance. The Salvation Army drive had help from the Boy and Girl Scouts in town. \$2,800 was raised and 90% is kept in town which will be used for the backpack program. The minor home help done in town is wrapping up their first project and will begin next one soon.
 - c. Suffield Senior Center – Peter Leclerc stated that they are transitioning away from the current software used to communicate with seniors and will use the Parks & Rec software. Right now, money paid for programs is not at all completed electronically. It is hopeful that more electronic capability will be cost saving and help provide services to seniors. A welcoming committee has been created. Exercising classes are being diversified to include all ages; something for everyone. Special events are held to help supplement senior luncheons. Survey results will help determine levels of need. They are looking into grants to help with kitchen repairs. A new part-time driver has been hired for the minibus. A smaller vehicle has been purchased which will help reduce fuel costs. There is a ride scheduling app to help seniors with planning their schedules and trips. The Senior Service Fair does not have a future date set. There will be attorneys, state planners, and lots of other options for seniors. The Local Prevention Council is still looking for an active member. They meet every other month on the second Wednesday.

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- d. Comments from Suffield Housing Authority – Kimberly Emmons, Executive Director, is leaving to take a new position at McLean Home in Simsbury. As of January 30, 2023 the new director will be Jason Joyce. Debra Krut will remain in the office as well.
6. Old Business
 - a. Affordable Housing Task Force Update – Colin Moll-First Selectman stated that the Task Force is full. Suffield is currently at 6% of the state mandate of 10% for Affordable Housing.
 - b. Food Security Issues – Robin Zatony has been in touch with the churches in town and trying to understand what services are provided by the town and churches and where there may be some gaps. There is a need to provide more education to residents on this service.
 - c. Senior Services Fair – selecting a date is first on the list. Create a list of at least ten individuals who could attend the fair and help seniors. What are things that can come up unexpectedly. Sharon Bruno talked about caring for her mother and that it would be good if there was an option for traveling flu or Covid shots due to seniors limited mobility.
7. New Business – NONE
8. The next meeting for the Suffield Social Services Commission will be held Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 8:30 am at the Town Hall with a Zoom option available.
9. Colin Moll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m. Peter Leclerc seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk
Commission Members
Department Heads