



Town of Suffield

Social Services Commission

Thursday, February 9, 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, Nathan Prusi, and Andrea (Chace) Wessling

Department Heads Present: Colin Moll – 1st Selectman
Peter Leclerc – Director of Community Services
Danielle Annibalini – Community Aid
Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority
Debra Krut – Suffield Housing Authority

1. Chair Marcia DuFore called the meeting to order at 8:37 am. Commission Members and Department Heads listed above introduced themselves.
2. The minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Nathan Prusi made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vice Chair Robin Zatony seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment - NO PUBLIC COMMENT
4. Department Reports – NONE SINCE THEY ARE REVIEWED EVERY OTHER MONTH
 - a. First Selectman Colin Moll informed the Commission that Kate Powers – Youth Services Director has resigned. Commission members and Department heads said that she will be missed. Her exit interview provided items to help with the hiring of the next individual to fill that role.
5. Old Business
 - a. Affordable Housing Task Force Update – Colin Moll-First Selectman stated that the Task Force met on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. This was their initial meeting. They talked about how to communicate and educate town residents on understanding what affordable housing is all about. Nathan Prusi said that the perception is letting residents know that affordable housing does not impact surrounding housing values.
 - b. Food Security Issues – Vice Chair Robin Zatony met with most of the churches in town and they will meet again in a few weeks. They discussed trying to figure out where there are gaps. The Suffield Observer will list items available to residents. About 12% of students currently get help and there is an additional 4% close to the threshold. Vice Chair Robin Zatony will speak with Bill Hoff, Business Manager at the school, to see if there is a need at the school.
 - c. Senior Services Fair – will take place on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at the Senior Center. Peter LeClerc will setup a google document to make it easier to keep the information for individuals who may be interested in having a table at the fair. All services currently being offered to residents will be attending. Commission members will put in as much contact information as possible. Each member will make the initial call to the individual on the list.

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6. New Business
 - a. Suffield Housing Authority Director, Jason Joyce, introduced himself. Debra Krut updated the Commission and said that Jason is doing well in his new position. The waiting list for housing is just under 30 people. The average length of wait is about a year. Eligibility for Suffield is low income. In 2022 it was \$47,340 for 1 person and \$54,100 for 2 people. Base rent is \$375 or \$425 per month. They look at all income (money coming in) and their out-of-pocket expenses (medical, dental, prescriptions, and vision).
7. The next meeting for the Suffield Social Services Commission will be held Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 8:30 am at the Town Hall with a Zoom option available.
8. Andrea (Chace) Wessling made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 a.m. Nathan Prusi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk
Commission Members
Department Heads

