



# Town of Suffield

## Social Services Commission

Thursday, May 11, 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 (arrived at 8:44 am)

**Department Heads Present:** Colin Moll – 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman  
Danielle Annibalini – Community Aid

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1. Chair Marcia DuFore called the meeting to order at 8:31 am. Commission Members and Department Heads listed above introduced themselves.
2. The minutes from the April 13, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. Nathan Prusi made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Vice Chair Robin Zatony seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – None
4. Department Reports:
  - a. Update re: Suffield Youth Services – a new hire will be starting on May 22. She has worked with the youth for most of her life. First Selectman Moll will send her resume to the Commission. At the last meeting members recommended the use of ARPA funds to see if a consultant could be hired for the summer given the absence of a Youth Services Director. Now that Kelly has been hired, members questioned whether funds could still be used to help her since there has been a gap since Kate Powers left. Colin Moll suggested that we give her time to get started and then assess what her needs might be.
  - b. Suffield Community Aid – Danielle Annibalini – The Renter’s Rebate for seniors and disabled residents began on April 1, 2023. The spring basket program provided baskets to 46 families. A woman who lost her life in 2021 had a fund established by her parents to use for scholarships for needs in town. Shout out to Deb who processed at least 246 fuel applications. Meals on Wheels is funded by CRT and the need for this service varies depending on the time of year. Looking to identify a veteran in town who may need a roof.
  - c. Suffield Senior Center – no report received and Peter LeClerc is on vacation.
  - d. Suffield Housing Authority – no report received and no one present.
5. Old Business
  - a. Affordable Housing Task Force Update – There is a meeting tonight. There is no easy way to get to the numbers required. It is extremely expensive to build since costs have almost doubled.
  - b. Food Security – There was a meeting on Tuesday. Everyone seems to be in good shape to help those in need.

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- c. Senior Services Fair – will take place June 16, 2023. There will be a table to collect food for Crossroads. A flyer will be put together for the Farmer’s Market to hand out for those in need or where they can donate items. They are looking for donations of gift baskets and/or gift cards for the fair. It was suggested that Peter send out a volunteer request form for help needed for set up, during, or break down from the fair. Marcia will reach out to him.
6. New Business:
- a. A community member reached out to Vice Chair Robin Zatony and asked to talk with Commission members about some of the needs she observes in her counseling practice with seniors. The June meeting agenda will include time to discuss as well as how to engage more seniors in Senior Center programs. Marcia will reach out to Peter to ask him to attend and participate in the discussion.
  - b. An invitation will be sent to Kelly, the new Youth Services Director, for her to attend the June meeting.
  - c. First Selectman Colin Moll stated that the budget passed last night.
7. The next meeting for the Suffield Social Services Commission will be held Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 8:30 am at the Town Hall with a Zoom option available. There will be no meetings in July or August.
8. Kathy Bielonko made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting for the Suffield Social Services Commission at 9:18 a.m. Nathan Prusi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk  
Commission Members  
Department Heads