



Town of Suffield

Social Services Commission

Thursday, October 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 Zatory-Vice Chair, Ann Bauchiero, Kathy Bielonko, and Nathan Prusi

Department Heads Present: Colin Moll – First Selectman
Danielle Annibalini – Community Aid
Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth Services

1. Chair Marcia DuFore called the meeting to order at 8:33 am. Commission Members and Department Heads listed above introduced themselves.
2. The minutes from the September 14, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. Nathan Prusi made a motion to amend the minutes as follows:
Item 4.a. The second and third sentences should read, “There is a friendly visitor program they are looking at to revitalize through the contact program. The pen pal program would be a great partnership.”
Kathy Bielonko seconded the motion to amend the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – NONE
4. Welcome and introductions.
5. Department Reports are only reviewed every other month. No reports this month.
6. Old Business
 - a. Affordable Housing Task Force – Vice Chair Zatory stated that the Task Force has been tasked with finding where affordable housing could possibly go in town. Public water and sewers are needed to make that happen. Owners who are open to sell at least two acres of their property for the purpose of affordable housing. Maps were screen-shared to show areas that were researched in town, existing higher density areas (apartments and condos), and why affordable housing is feared. The Town has at about 6% of the 10% that the State would like all towns to get to. Things that prevent Affordable Housing are Zoning Rules and Regulations. Several parcels in town were identified. The Task Force is asking if there is a need for seniors or those with disabilities looking for affordable housing. Individuals 55+ are dealing with rents being raised beyond their financial means. Anyone can apply for Suffield housing (even non-residents). The waitlist is a maximum of thirty individuals and is opening for new applications at the end of this month.
 - b. Food Insecurity –there is no other church in town who is willing to take on housing the food pantry. The First Congregational closed their pantry back in September. The Suffield Housing Authority purchased the freezer from the church and said there is another pantry in Granby who helps those in need but those individuals are limited in getting to Granby due to transportation. The Housing Authority will check with the other churches in town to see if they are willing to help with collecting items needed for residents.
 - c. Senior Services Workgroup Update – several Senior Services in surrounding towns have been looked at. The information was shared with Peter LeClerc and it will be discussed more at the December meeting.

7. New Business

- a. Process of handling public comment – Anyone can come and comment on anything on the agenda or something else not on the agenda. It was discussed that anyone wishing to make a public comment should be encouraged to be brief. The Commission does not have to respond to the comment(s). Could something be added to the Zoom script read prior to the meeting being called to order that mentions the time? Chair Marcia DuFore will research this and discuss it further at the November meeting. It is important to not interrupt someone when they are speaking and that they provide their name and address.
8. The next meeting for the Suffield Social Services Commission will be held Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 8:30 am at the Town Hall with a Zoom option available.
9. Vice Chair Robin Zatony made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting for the Suffield Social Services Commission on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 9:26 a.m. Nathan Prusi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk
Commission Members
Department Heads