



TOWN CLERK
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2024 NOV -8 AM 11: 33

REC'D BY:

Town of Suffield

Social Services Commission

Thursday, October 10, 2024 - 8:30 AM Meeting Minutes

Held at Suffield Senior Center Library/Hybrid Teleconference

Recording of the meeting is available on Town website under Social Services Commission

Commission Members Present: Chair Robin Zatony, Ann Bauchiero, and Andrea (Chace) Wessling

Commission Members Absent: Kathleen Bielonko, Sharon Bruno, and Nathan Prusi

Department Heads Present: Bethany Sullivan - Parks & Rec. Assistant to the Director

Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth Services

Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid

Colin Moll – First Selectman

1. Chair Zatony called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. There were not enough Commission Members present for a quorum, so this was an informational meeting. Mark Blackaby was recently appointed to the Commission.
2. The minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting were not reviewed.
3. Public Comment – None
4. Updates, as appropriate
 - a. Bethany Sullivan – Parks & Rec. Assistant to the Director – The lunch program served 442 lunches in September. The numbers on Tuesday's are lower than other days. It is expected that the numbers will be lower in October. There are fifteen people attending the low mobility fitness class. The AARP Safe Driver Course is happening next week. The Chair Volleyball will be starting soon. The Thanksgiving lunch will be on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. The Holiday Concert and Lunch with Jimmy Mazz will be on Monday, December 9, 2024. The Holiday Lunch sponsored by the Suffield Police Department will be on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. The Pen Pal program needs at least ten more seniors. Chair Zatony spoke of the program and its super positive impact on her father. The churches will be contacted to see if they know of anyone who would be interested in the program.
 - b. Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth & Family Services – There are seventeen community members involved in offered programs. There will be an opportunity to record future events. The Youth Services survey is coming out soon.
 - c. Mary Curtin - Suffield Community Aid – Applications are open now for the Megan Voisine Fund Kindness Matters Grant. Energy Assistance are also open. It is also the time of year for Medicare Open Enrollment. If residents would like to talk with Sheri Burger our Choices volunteer, she can help you understand your options. We have openings in our Housing Repair Program for income eligible households. SCA will help cover the cost for necessary repairs to alleviate health and safety issues or make a home more accessible. Holiday Basket programs are enrolling households and matching with sponsors. Finally, SCA is evaluating the possible ramifications of an upcoming cut to the Meals on Wheels program. Chair Zatony mentioned the churches and people in town that would willingly help with any gaps.

These minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.

4. Updates, as appropriate (CONTINUED)
 - d. Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority – Not present.
 - e. Kathy Bielonko – Library, Dunkin Donuts – Not present.
 - f. Ann Bauchiero – Police – No meeting was held last month. They have a new social work intern, Emily Wozniak.
 - g. Sharon Bruno – Religious Organizations – Not present.
 - h. Nathan Prusi – Fire, Planning & Zoning, Suffield Observer – Not present.
 - i. Andrea (Chace) Wessling – Facebook – Nothing observed on Facebook. Ms. Wessling will post on the Suffield Forum the flyer for collecting food at the polls.
 - j. Unassigned – Finance, Schools, Rotary, Veterans, etc.
5. Old Business
 - a. Town-wide Survey – Ms. Bruno met with First Selectman Moll. The Youth Survey should greatly help with gathering information.
 - b. Affordable Housing next steps – Nathan Prusi – this item is on hold.
6. New Business
 - a. Birth to 5 (Ann Bauchiero) – Playgroups starting in November which help with the socialization of the children and meeting other parents.
Police/Fire/EMT course for Kids – A safety course to give children knowledge on stranger danger, fire knowledge, etc. There is a lack of awareness for these programs for individuals not on social media. Suffield High students are needing community service hours.
Phone Safety,
Ideas to Improve Communication for Families
 - b. Parents Under Pressure Presentation – November 14, 6:30-8:30 – this item will be in the Suffield Observer. Scarlet Lewis founded the Choose Love book.
 - c. Book Clubs – January/February - The Anxious Generation book and How to Talk So Kids Will Listen – the books were available for those present to look at. The library invites authors via zoom to meet with the book club.
 - d. Commission member interested in compiling a book celebrating Suffield through older citizens. Ask volunteers if they have an interest in helping create the book in November.
 - e. Commission member interested in program for Seniors. “What keeps you up at night?” Chair Zatony will speak with Mr. Blackaby to see if he would be interested
 - f. Commission member interested in compiling a book – “What I Wish I Could Tell My Fourth-Grade Self”
 - g. Other needs/ideas?
 - h. Discussion – Changing the time of the Commission’s meetings – Commission members are asked to email Chair Zatony what are good times and days to meet.
7. The next meeting for the Social Services Commission is Thursday, November 14, 2024 at the Suffield Senior Center Library, 145 Bridge St. at 8:30 am with Zoom option available.

8. Chair Zatony adjourned the informal meeting at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk
Commission Members
Department Heads