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REC'D BY: 

## Town of Suffield

### Social Services Commission

Thursday, December 12, 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, Vice Chair Nathan Prusi, Ann Bauchiero, and Sharon Bruno

**Commission Members Absent:** Mark Blackaby

**Department Heads Present:** Bethany Sullivan - Parks & Rec. Assistant to the Director  
Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth Services  
Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid  
Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority

1. Chair Zatony called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Commission Members and Department Heads introduced themselves.
2. The minutes from the October 10, 2024 meeting were reviewed. **Ms. Bruno made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Bauchiero seconded. Mr. Prusi abstained. Motion carried.**
3. Review and Approve 2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule – There was discussion if the third Friday of the month from 8:30 am to 9:30 am would be convenient for other Commission members. There was no vote on the 2025 proposed meeting schedule.
4. Public Comment – None
5. Updates, as appropriate
  - a. Bethany Sullivan – Senior Center – Ms. Sullivan spoke about several new information programs for seniors.
  - b. Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth & Family Services – There is a new intern which has been very helpful. A new program from 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders will be starting soon. Equipment has been received to start a podcast.
  - c. Mary Curtin - Suffield Community Aid – Ms. Curtin spoke of the Meals on Wheels program regarding the cut in funding. A letter can be sent to the legislation which can be adjusted for each individual's needs who is sending the letter. Ms. Curtin will send the letter to Commission members via email. Lauren Morlino has been hired to replace Pat, who will retire in January 2025. Thanksgiving distribution went well.
  - d. Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority – donations have been received to help the food pantry. Two units will be occupied in January 2025.
  - e. Jerry Mahoney who is on the Board of Selectmen has resigned.
6. Old Business
  - a. Ann Bauchiero – Police/Fire/EMT – There are events in place for older kids regarding safety courses for them. Chair Zatony will work on getting a program for Littles.
  - b. Phone Safety – discussed under item A

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

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6. Old Business (CONTINUED)

- c. Ways to improve communication for families - this is getting better as we exchange program info with the library. Ms. Curtin will share a reference list she uses to help us pull together a more comprehensive list of resources available to residents.
- d. Parents Under Pressure Presentation from November 14 – was briefly discussed and focus groups will be created to help with the different topics.
- e. Seniors' Ideas for Future Programs (What Keeps You Up at Night). Discussed under 5a
- f. Pen Pal Program with kids and seniors – this continues to be a huge success amongst both groups. Need more seniors.
- g. Town-Wide Survey – this item can be removed from future agendas.
- h. Affordable Housing next steps – Nathan Prusi – not discussed.

7. New Business

- a. The Anxious Generation book – presentation in West Hartford tonight. Chair Zatony and Fred Sweitzer will take notes so we can bring pertinent information to Suffield.
- b. Joy Tierney, Intermediate School librarian is working on several things:
  - \* Audio books effort to help struggling readers. It will start in the school and then to the library.
  - \* Looking into inviting 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to walk-up in the spring to read with seniors
- c. Community Service ideas for Christmas 2025 – Discussing with a local church or churches having a Christmas concert for residents next year as a possible fund-raiser for the Town. One church has recording and livestreaming which could allow us to connect with relatives of residents who live far away.
- d. Discussion – Changing the time of the Commission's meetings – Chair Zatony will be sending an email to Commission members to get a better day and time of the month that is more convenient for everyone.

7. The next meeting for the Social Services Commission is tentatively Friday, January 16, 2025 from 8:00-9:00 am at the Suffield Community Aid (450 South St) with Zoom option available.

8. **Ms. Bauchiero made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bruno seconded. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk  
Commission Members  
Department Heads