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# TOWN OF SUFFIELD

## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

### SUFFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025 – 8:00 AM

SUFFIELD COMMUNITY AID – 450 SOUTH ST., SUFFIELD

**Commission Members Present:** Chair Robin Zatony, Vice Chair Nathan Prusi, Mark Blackaby,  
and Sharon Bruno

**Members Absent:** Ann Bauchiero

**Department Heads Present:** Bethany Sullivan – Senior Services  
Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth & Family Services  
Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid

1. Chair Zatony called the special meeting to order at 8:05 am. Chair Zatony introduced a new Commission Member, Mark Blackaby, who has experience in helping veterans. Chair Zatony introduced Laura Eisenhaure, who is interested in joining the Commission, has three children, grew up in Suffield and is a Suffield business owner. The Board of Selectmen are expected to appoint Ms. Eisenhower at their next meeting. Fred Sweitzer is a town resident who was on the Juvenile Review Board at one time. He is interested in joining the Commission. There was discussion regarding a convenient meeting time for those present.
2. The minutes from the December 12, 2024 meeting were presented. **Vice Chair Prusi made a motion to amend the minutes as follows:**
  5. c. – **Lauren Morlino should be spelled Lauren Marino.**
  - Ms. Bruno seconded the motion to amend the minutes. Motion carried.**
3. Public Comment – NO PUBLIC COMMENT
4. Department Updates (no formal reports this month)
  - a. Bethany Sullivan – Seniors – John from Windsor Federal Bank came in and gave a presentation on estate planning. It was a very good discussion. Ms. Sullivan will compile a checklist to help those preparing information that needs to be gathered and another checklist for the executor for handling the necessary items. North Central Health District handed out 25 radon tests to homeowners. Next month AARP appointments will begin on Thursday's. There are three time slots available per hour to help with tax preparation. This will start on February 6, 2025. An obituary writing class will be offered next month. It is something the seniors have asked for. Ms. Sullivan asked if anyone knows someone in the pharmacist field who could come in on a Tuesday in March. Ms. Bruno stated that she would reach out to someone she knows and get the contact information to Ms. Sullivan.
  - b. Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth Services – Three big items coming up – Raising Suffield podcasts launched on January 6 and will be available bi-weekly. They are geared toward parents and the issues they face. The recent podcast was about responding to the prompt, "I wish my parents knew that..." Two high school students read the responses, felt it was well received, and very positive. February 3 is an interview with a former math teacher, Bethany Sullivan. There are things lined up through March 2025. She would like to have more items in the pipeline. The episodes last about 20 minutes. Chair Zatony asked Commission Members to see if there are any individuals they know that may be interested in participating in future podcasts.
  - c. Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid – Program brochures were given to Commission members and were asked to distribute them widely. A flyer for the grieving support program, which will begin in March 2025, will run for six weeks on Fridays. The energy assistance program is going well. Over 170 applications have been received. 94 families and seniors participated in the holiday basket program. A new sport shoe and sneaker drive is going on right now. Food is well stocked to help residents. Meals on Wheels has no recent updates. Those receiving meals in the past are still receiving but on a different basis and SCA is stepping in for a prior reduction in deliveries.

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

4. Department Updates (no formal reports this month) - CONTINUED
  - d. Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority – Not present at the meeting.
  - e. Commission Members – Community needs, observations, participation in recent events
5. Old Business
  - a. Police/Fire/EMT course for kids and phone safety – There is a firefighter willing to help with this. Chair Zatony will be reaching out to find a police officer, too.
  - b. Ways to improve communication for families – podcasts – talked about earlier in the meeting. The podcasts are recorded.
  - c. Anxious Generation – share presentation highlights and next steps. The recording was emailed to Commission members. Chair Zatony is looking for individuals who would be interested in participating in the future.  
Podcast – program for parents with kids about technology. Instead of having an in-person event, a recorded panel of parents for a future podcast would be good. Record talks and have them available to parents on multiple platforms. This would be more of an impact to parents.
  - d. Seniors’ ideas for future programs (What Keeps You Up at Night?) – Chair Zatony asked Commission members if they had any input on this topic. Vice Chair Prusi spoke of scouts looking to their Eagle Scout Project and any items in town that may need attention. Ms. Sullivan will compile a list of projects needing to be completed and will email them to Vice Chair Prusi.
  - e. Pen pal program with kids and seniors (Can we find the SHS student who’s interested?)
  - f. Audio book effort with Suffield Intermediate School (Joy Tierney)
    - i. Start with popular books at the Intermediate School, especially for struggling readers.
    - ii. Get input from SHS and SMS advisory board of favorite books
    - iii. Possibly expand the program to the public library via Spotify or another service.
  - g. Community Service ideas for Christmas 2025 – Town-wide choral concert, etc. – Chair Zatony asked if any Commission members present were interested in putting together the event. The service would be inside. One church has live streaming and the ability to record the event. This item was tabled and will be discussed at the February 2025 meeting.
6. New Business – ideas and interests for 2025
  - a. Vice Chair Prusi relayed that the Eagle Scouts would be looking for project.
  - b. The group briefly discussed finding ways to replace the uneven brick patio at the Community Center – looking for donations from residents to help make the beautiful outdoor space better useable.
7. **Vice Chair Prusi made a motion to adjourn the special meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) held Friday, January 17, 2025. Ms. Bruno seconded the motion. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 am.** The next Regular Meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) will be held on Friday, February 21, 2025 at 7:30-8:30 am at Suffield Community Aid (450 South St.) with zoom option available.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin, Recording Secretary

c: Town Clerk  
Commission Members  
Department Heads