



# TOWN OF SUFFIELD

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2025 MAR 10 AM 8: 29

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SUFFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025 – 7:30 AM  
SUFFIELD COMMUNITY AID – 450 SOUTH ST., SUFFIELD

**Commission Members Present:** Chair Robin Zatony, Vice Chair Nathan Prusi, Laura Eisenhaure, Timothy Reynolds, and Ann Bauchiero  
**Members Absent:** Mark Blackaby and Sharon Bruno  
**Department Heads Present:** Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth & Family Services  
Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid  
Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority

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1. Chair Zatony called the regular meeting to order at 7:31 am. Chair Zatony welcomed new Commission Members, Laura Eisenhaure and Timothy Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds is a retired CPA and has lived in Suffield for many years.
2. The minutes from the January 17, 2025 Special Meeting were presented. **Vice Chair Prusi made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Eisenhaure seconded the motion. Mr. Reynolds abstained. Motion carried.**
3. Public Comment – None
4. Department Updates (no formal reports this month)
  - a. Bethany Sullivan is absent, but asked Kelly Giannuzzi to present her report to the Commission – There are appointments on Thursdays to help with taxes available through the tax deadline. Suffield Volunteer Ambulance will be visiting on Tuesday, March 25 to educate on stroke awareness. Ms. Sullivan thanked Ms. Bruno for her help assisting with arranging this event. Ms. Sullivan is going to get video and stream events.
  - b. Kelly Giannuzzi – Youth Services – The podcasts are going well and are scheduled through mid-April. The podcast is called Raising Suffield and is for parents to listen to. Parents have a hard time attending events and the podcasts give them the opportunity to listen to them when they fit into their schedule. Parents are unaware of electric bikes and their ability to go up to 35 miles per hour. The kids ride electric bikes without helmets and sometimes have two riders. The Juvenile Review Board will be made aware of this, and the Police Department is exploring how to handle this issue. Suffield Wisdom has been added to podcasts where seniors are interviewed. They shared love advice on Valentine's Day. Teens will also be participating in the Real Talk segment. Their first topic was "I wish my parents knew" and then fill in the blank. It's on Spotify and Apple podcasts and last 20-30 minutes.
  - c. Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid – Some good news is that Meals on Wheels waitlist has been unfrozen in the past month. A good number of new people have started the program. There is a new program through the United Way called Rapid Response Program which gives up to \$1,000 to housing insecure individuals to put toward either housing expenses, utility expenses, or food expenses. SCA has accessed it at least eight times and expects to access it a couple more times until the Town is cut off from the funding. There has been a lot of need for assistance with fuel this year. The food bank has also been heavily used, and they are receiving wonderful donations from the community. The kids Super Bowl challenge brought in over 1,300 items and a few churches in town have provided monetary support. SCA continues to be able to accept housing repair program referrals. If anyone knows of any veterans in need of anything, please let Ms. Curtin know. They are getting ready for the spring baskets.

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

4. Department Updates - CONTINUED
  - d. Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority – Right now it is a busy season. They have a new tenant rep that started in August, and she is doing great! She goes around and visits everyone each month. She had a Valentine’s Day party where 20 to 30 people attended and are planning another event for March. There is a three-year waitlist. SHA froze the list and stopped taking names around fifty. There were four turnovers in 2024. This year, so far, two people in January and another individual is moving in on March 1.
  - e. Commission Members –There was discussion on the Affordable Housing situation in town.
5. Old Business
  - a. Police/Fire/EMT course for kids and phone safety – Randy Roman and David Demur will help with this program. Ms. Bauchiero will need to set up the day and time for the program.
  - b. Audio book Suffield Intermediate School update (Joy Tierney) – Chair Zatony donated to purchase audio books to help slow readers in grades three through five. Ms. Tierney ordered \$2,000 worth of audio books, put them on the shelves, and within two hours all but three of the audio books were gone. If this goes well, it will be taken to the library in town.
  - c. Contact List – There was a request from some seniors to compile a list of town resources and important numbers in town into a document. Ms. Curtin gathered mostly town resources and numbers, and Ms. Bruno put together non-town information together. There was discussion about how it can be made available to individuals in town. This will be discussed further at the March 21, 2025 meeting.
  - d. Community Service ideas for Christmas 2025 – tabled until the March 21, 2025 meeting.
6. New Business
  - a. Building a Village – Village Movement model – Ms. Curtin screen shared the document with the Commission. It is a model to connect volunteers and seniors in three areas. One is creating networks to help seniors around technology. Second is taking care of their homes. Third is transportation.
  - b. Commission Member expectations document – Ms. Curtin discussed what the mission is of the Social Services Commission. What is our goal? The sharing of resources and the developing of programs to help share resources and not just educational programs is really what the Commission is all about. Ms. Bruno met with Laura LaFlamme and proposed her idea of four elevated flower or vegetable gardens outside the Senior Center. This could be an Eagle Scout project if acceptable to Mr. LeClerc. Vice Chair Prusi will bring the idea to the troop. Chair Zatony will talk to Ms. Bruno about this. Chair Zatony spoke with Peter LeClerc regarding removing the unsafe green gazebo and replacing it at the opposite end of the middle green with a larger one. The next step is to get a rendering of the new bandstand to present to the Suffield Historic Commission. Elzear Roy, a local and well-respected builder, is prepared to build the new bandstand.
7. The next Regular Meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) will be held on Friday, March 21, 2025 at 7:30-8:30 am at Suffield Community Aid (450 South St.) with zoom option available.
8. **Vice Chair Prusi made a motion to adjourn the special meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) held Friday, January 17, 2025. Ms. Eisenhaure seconded the motion. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary