



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

TOWN CLERK  
SUFFIELD, CT

2025 DEC -1 AM 9:48

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SUFFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

REC'D BY: me

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025 – 8:30 AM  
SUFFIELD COMMUNITY AID – 450 SOUTH ST., SUFFIELD

**Commission Members Present:** Chair Robin Zatony, Vice Chair Nathan Prusi, Ann Bauchiero, Sharon Bruno, and Laura Eisenhaure  
**Members Absent:** Mark Blackaby  
**Department Heads Present:** Bethany Sullivan – Seniors and Ideas for Future Programs  
Joann Moriarty – Youth Services  
Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid  
Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority

---

1. Chair Zatony called the regular meeting to order at 8:30 am. Chair Zatony confirmed Commission Members and Department Heads listed above were present.
2. The minutes from the September 19, 2025 Regular Meeting were presented. **Vice Chair Prusi made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Bruno seconded. All in favor; motion passed.**
3. Public Comment – None
4. Department Updates (no formal reports this month)
  - a. Bethany Sullivan – Seniors – Ms. Sullivan reported that the Senior Center is running smoothly with the mini-buses running well. They recently received a \$3,000 donation for the kitchen. The center has been busy with various services, including Medicare counseling and Social Security workshops, which have been fully booked. Ms. Sullivan discussed ongoing efforts to improve sustainability by potentially installing an industrial dishwasher with the help of Sustainable Suffield.
  - b. Joann Moriarty - Youth Services – Ms. Moriarty highlighted many youth programs, including STEM activities, art classes, and coat collections, which have been well-attended and successful. Ms. Moriarty discussed outreach efforts to local childcare centers and elementary schools with a monthly newsletter (content provided by Ann Bauchiero).
  - c. Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid – Ms. Curtin discussed the food pantry's current state, noting a significant increase in donations and users due to the SNAP pause, which affected populations not previously supported by the pantry. They also talked about gift card donations for produce and the increased usage of their outdoor pantry. Holiday basket distributions for families and seniors were scheduled for the following week. Ms. Curtin reported on various community initiatives, including a successful food collection on Election Day and ongoing challenges with energy assistance applications due to delays with the vendor CRT. She mentioned a \$500 donation from the VOAG program and the upcoming closure of the Megan Voisine Fund grant application on December 6th.
  - d. Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority – Mr. Joyce discussed community activities and events organized for SHA residents, a Halloween trick-or-treat event in partnership with the Senior Center, and a Veterans Day lunch featuring homemade chicken stew. He mentioned plans for a Christmas party in December, which will include a meal, gifts for residents, and live music performed by a local singer-guitarist. The event is expected to attract 40-50 residents and their family members. Tickets are discounted for residents. Mr. Joyce also discussed the status of the waiting list for housing units, which has been open since October 2025 and currently has 15 applications. There was positive feedback shared about the Senior Center and mentioned plans for future housing expansion in the next 5 years.
  - e. Commission Members – None

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

5. Old Business

- a. Little's Newsletter and Safety Tips – Ms. Bauchiero and Ms. Moriarty – Ms. Moriarty mentioned using Canva for creating flyers and offered to help with QR codes.
- b. Update on Suffield Sidekicks – Ms. Moriarty and Ms. Curtin – The Suffield Sidekicks program faced delays due to the government shutdown affecting background check processing. Despite these challenges, the program has seen strong referrals and positive feedback from participants. Mary and another participant discussed the possibility of organizing a meal kit event for Suffield Sidekicks in the spring.
- c. Town Green Bandstand – Chair Zatony – Renderings are ready to present the bandstand design to the Historic District Commission on Monday, December 1 for approval.
- d. December 13, 2025 Concert and Sing Along 4:15-5:00 pm – Chair Zatony discussed a concert and community sing-along event, including logistics like livestreaming, recording, and accommodations for seniors. She invited volunteers to help with setup and greeter roles. The group also briefly discussed advertising methods and the event's inclusive approach to Suffield Alight!

6. New Business

- a. Ride Program for Seniors – Chair Zatony discussed forming a task force to explore the viability of a senior ride program for those who need support and for whom the current programs don't work.
  - b. Town Green as a Gathering Place – Chair Zatony – The Commission briefly touched on the Town Green project headed by the Economic Development Council. Plans are forming to improve the accessibility and community engagement in local parks.
  - c. Concerns were raised about the current community center's youth space being too small and its location being inconvenient for some was discussed. We may want to look into the Dunkin Plaza where there's rental space and/or Fyler Place. Ms. Moriarty will ask the youth leadership for ideas about unstructured activities.
  - d. We talked about the impact of early release days on the town, shops, etc. There is concern about safety at street crossings, especially near the Community Center. Chair Zatony will explore a possible task force to work on idea implementation.
7. Review and Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule – Chair Zatony proposed rescheduling their next meeting to February 20, 2026 and suggested meeting every other month thereafter, with a potential summer meeting. The Commission agreed to meet on the first Friday of each month, starting in April 2026. Chair Zatony will send emails to the Commission and Department Heads to confirm the 2026 meeting dates.
8. The next Regular Meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am-9:30 am at Suffield Community Aid (450 South St.) with zoom option available.
9. **Vice Chair Prusi made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) held Friday, November 21, 2025. Ms. Bruno seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary