



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

TOWN CLERK  
SUFFIELD, CT

2026 FEB 12 AM 10:49

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SUFFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION REC'D BY: EWB  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026 – 8:30 AM  
SUFFIELD COMMUNITY AID – 450 SOUTH ST., SUFFIELD

**Commission Members Present:** Chair Robin Zatony, Vice Chair Nathan Prusi, Ann Bauchiero, and Laura Eisenhaure  
**Members Absent:** Mark Blackaby and Sharon Bruno  
**Department Heads Present:** Joann Moriarty – Youth Services  
Bethany Sullivan – Senior 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 8:35 am. Chair Zatony confirmed Commission Members and Department Heads listed above were present.
2. The minutes from the November 21, 2025 Regular Meeting were presented. **Vice Chair Prusi made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Eisenhaure seconded. All in favor; motion passed.**
3. Public Comment – None
4. Department Updates (no formal report needed) – please discuss favorites, needs, trends, and forecasts
  - a. Joann Moriarty - Youth Services – A Youth Voices Count Survey was done at the High and Middle School in March 2025. The results were presented to the Board of Education in December 2025. Two takeaways were the mental health in the middle school, especially with girls and in the high school alcohol use and easy access. This survey was done 2 years and also 4 years ago. The results are moving in a positive direction. The results will have a direct impact on youth programming.
    - 1) There are plans for parents to watch the movie *Screenagers*, during the parent/teacher conferences in March 2026.
    - 2) Youth Services is partnering with the Governor's Prevention Partnership to implement a comprehensive, town-wide initiative to reduce access to medications in the home and strengthen protective factors that keep youth healthy and safe. As part of that project, drug deactivation packets will be mailed out to all homes in Suffield along with information on local resources. The Suffield Local Prevention Council has been revamped to make it easier for those involved to attend and help the youth.
    - 3) There is a need on the council for someone in healthcare, law enforcement, faith/religion, and media. Chair Zatony asked Vice Chair Prusi, Ms. Bauchiero, and Ms. Eisenhaure if they know of anyone who could fill those positions. The Council meets 4 to 6 times a year. Information can be found on the Youth Services Facebook page. Ms. Moriarty distributed copies of the current Suffield Family Connections newsletter for members to take after the meeting. The next goal is to offer an educational learn and play group. A place is needed to hold the playgroups.
    - 4) Suffield Sidekicks had a seasonal lull in the winter. An increase in numbers is expected in the spring.
    - 5) Ms. Bauchiero spoke of a friend who is willing to help seniors at the community center with technical computer issues. Ms. Sullivan stated that the best time for the seniors to get that help would be between the hours of 10 am until noon.

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

4. Department Updates (no formal report needed) – please discuss favorites, needs, trends, and forecasts (CONTINUED)
  - b. Bethany Sullivan – Seniors – Ms. Sullivan reported that the Senior Center is running smoothly and has been very busy.
    - 1) They are requesting another part-time driver for a mini-bus.
    - 2) The AARP Tax Program is being held on Thursdays. There are more time slots available, with there being four each hour.
    - 3) The arm chair travel is the most popular program.
    - 4) In March there will be a retirement program in the evening, with American Senior Benefits should there be any questions.
  - c. Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid – 106 households received holiday baskets, which is up significantly from last year.
    - 1) Fuel program applications are still coming in. There have been more emergency calls for fuel.
    - 2) The Bereavement Support Group will meet on Fridays beginning in April.
    - 3) The Generation Power Program is opening March 2-10, 2026.
    - 4) Social Worker Lauren Marino will hold a program at the Senior Center starting in March. Chair Zatony asked Ms. Curtin to pass on to Ms. Marino that Dana Gaunter is interested in helping with the Alzheimer's Group.
  - d. Jason Joyce - Suffield Housing Authority – The waitlist is open until March 31, 2026. Things are going very well.
    - 1) Two churches have dropped off food for the seniors.
    - 2) The Christmas celebration was a success.
    - 3) A Valentine's Day party will be happening soon.
    - 4) The pantry is in good shape and they are working to clean out the freezer in order to restock.
    - 5) Gift cards have been great in helping those in need.
5. Old Business
  - a. Town Green Bandstand – A new design is in process. The original design is not available so the project is delayed. The new design will need to be approved by Suffield Historic District Commission.
  - b. December 13 Concert and Sing-Along; plans for 2026 – the concert was beautiful and well attended. We are hopeful attendance will grow next year as word gets out.
  - c. Augmenting Senior Rides with Volunteers Task Force – The group is started and in the information gathering stage.
6. New Business - None
7. The next Regular Meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) will be held on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 8:30 am-9:30 am at Suffield Community Aid (450 South St.) with zoom option available.
8. **Vice Chair Prusi made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) held Friday, February 6, 2026. Ms. Eisenhaure seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin  
Recording Secretary

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