



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

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By Michele Urch at 8:18 am, Jun 09, 2026

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
SUFFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026 – 8:30 AM
SUFFIELD COMMUNITY AID – 450 SOUTH ST., SUFFIELD**

Commission Members Present: Chair Robin Zatony and Vice Chair Nathan Prusi
Members Absent: Ann Bauchiero, Mark Blackaby, Sharon Bruno, and Laura Eisenhaure
Department Heads Present: Joann Moriarty – Youth Services
Bethany Sullivan – Senior Services, arrived at 8:52 am
Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid
Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority

SINCE THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE FOR A QUORUM, THIS WAS AN INFORMATIONAL GATHERING ONLY.

1. Chair Zatony began the informational gathering at 8:36 am. Chair Zatony confirmed Commission Members and Department Heads listed above were present.
2. The February 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 10, 2026 Informative Meeting Minutes were tabled until the September 11, 2026 meeting.
3. Public Comment – None
4. Department Updates (no formal report needed)
 - a. Jason Joyce – Suffield Housing Authority – Things are going well. There is an approximate three year wait list. More food has been donated. They are working to complete a CHFA grant which would help to bring residents together for events. There was no official update on affordable housing.
 - b. Mary Curtin – Suffield Community Aid – The mail carrier food drive resulted in receiving a good amount of food but less than in years past. SCA is working on our first strategic plan which will include a community survey, volunteer focus groups and participant and community partner interviews. Parkinsons group is on break for the summer, but Caregiver group will continue to meet. Lauren Marino is available for help with state program redeterminations, and Beth Sheridan is helping residents enroll in Rental Rebate, Camperships and Farmer Market gift cards. There continues to be increased stress on residents related to affordability.
 - d. Joann Moriarty - Youth Services – The Suffield Sidekicks Teens Helping Seniors Program had the teen recruitment efforts being very successful! We now have 33 teens enrolled in the program, working multiple jobs on the weekends. A group of 7 Sidekicks recently washed approximately 150 windows at the Suffield Housing Authority's three residential units. The residents were so appreciative! Youth Services will be submitting a grant application from the Suffield Greater Together Foundation to continue the program. Youth Services Summer Programs include robot building, 3D Printing summer sessions. Both programs are facilitated by the ACES High Robotics team with members from Suffield High School. Fresh Air Friends - go outside and play! Food Explorers. Youth Center open hours through the summer and has collaborated with the Governor's Prevention Partnership to launch a substance misuse prevention campaign. Every Suffield home received a Detera drug disposal pouch along with an informational sleeve that provides strategies to prevent opioid use, how to have honest conversations about opioid misuse and where to get support. The sleeves display our Suffield Prevention Council logo, a direct quote from First Selectman Colin Moll and the Suffield Youth Services logo. More will be made available at community events. This project was made possible with the allocation of Suffield's Opioid Settlement Funds. The project drew the attention of Fox 61 news and the JI. The Suffield Youth Leadership Council at SHS hosted a "Stay Substance Free - Positive Mental Health" day at Suffield High School on May 20th. During lunch waves, the teens distributed motivational bracelets and temporary tattoos along with pocket sized brochures filled with information

and tips on “Coping Strategies for Challenging Times”. We hung a big banner that read “I stay Substance-Free Because...” and students added their personal reasons to the banner. The response was overwhelmingly positive! Our latest edition of the Suffield Family Connections monthly newsletter will cover June, July and August. This is distributed electronically to students in the district, paper copies are made available in local childcare facilities and it is posted on social media. Thanks to Ann Bauchiero for her continued collaboration on this project! As a reminder, all Suffield Youth Services programs are posted on the Youth Services Facebook page and registration is through SuffieldRec.com

- c. Bethany Sullivan – Senior Services – In April, Advanced Directive brought in Attorney Hess and a presenter to help seniors understand items that the seniors may need to implement. There will be a Core Presentation regarding streaming versus cable on June 9, 2026. Lunch attendance has increased, with it being noted that those individuals who have been added to the lunch subsidy list. The senior center remains very busy with all of the scheduled activities. Chair Zatony shared that a senior who had not been attending events brought concern to the staff. Bethany reached out to see who they were doing. The resident was very pleased and appreciated the phone call.
5. Old Business
 - a. Town Green Bandstand – The base is installed, the back will be installed, as well as the lights in the next few weeks.
 - b. Augmenting Senior Rides – Chair Zatony spoke with Peter LeClerc and Legal who shared that they approve with implementing the plan. Peter has received software that will help with the scheduling and should have it ready to go in July or August. Any rides that are not able to be provided would be handed off to a volunteer for assistance. Drivers need insurance and confirmation that they are able to provide the service to residents.
 6. New Business
 - a. Chair Zatony asked Vice Chair Prusi to reach out to all Commission members to determine whether meetings should be held monthly and what times are convenient for them to meet.
 7. The next Regular Meeting of the Suffield Social Services Commission (SSSC) will be held on Friday, September 11, 2026, 8:30 am-9:30 am, which is subject to change based on the findings of Vice Chair Prusi, at Suffield Community Aid (450 South St.) with zoom option available.
 8. **Chair Zatony concluded the informative meeting at 9:10 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin
Recording Secretary