

**Minutes of the Social Services Commission
Feb. 11, 2016 – Senior Center – 8:30 a.m.**

Members present:

Rob Michalman, MaryEllen Tunsky, Bob Brooks, Faith Roebelen, Marcia Dufore Absent: Ruth Clark, S. Kozaczka

Director present: Paula Pascoe, Marzena Heimonski, Mini Bus Representative
Absent: Janet Frechette, Leslie Offenbach

Chairman Rob Michalman called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: Ms. Foebelen moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 28 meeting; Ms. Tunsky seconded; the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Directors' Reports

Mini Bus Representative– Ms. Heimowski distributed her written report. She noted that January was a “ very quiet month”. She is happy to report an increase of 10 new riders this month. January, 2016 statistics: 521 passengers, mileage 5,296 , fuel 531, days of service, 19 and 831 driving hours. She is a full time driver and someone needs to cover for her while she performs office duties. The Mini Bus Office will now be in the Senior Center. She included her proposed budget. She is asking for a 24 hour new driver.

Janet Frechette, Executive Director, EAA, Ms. Frechette was unable to attend this meeting, but she sent her written report which Mr. Michalman reviewed for the Commission. Fuel Aid: We have taken more than 160 applications for the State’s program. EAA Private Fuel Bank – The early season of mild weather, coupled with lower fuel prices, has reduced the need to tap this account.

Meals-on-Wheels: We have oriented two new people to serve as meal subs. Our policy is to cancel meals when schools are closed. Compared to last season, we are in very good shape.

Salvation Army: We have \$4,175 in the account after record breaking kettle donations this past holiday season. These funds can be used for medications, partial rents, utilities and other expenses that fall outside other program guidelines.

SNAP Assistance (food stamps) The Ea will be offering SNAP assistance again on Feb. 17th from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Appointments are necessary.

Youth Service Bureau – Director Leslie Offenbach was absent but she sent in the written report and the Chairman review her report. Ms. Offenbach has been attending committee meetings for the Bridge St. Community Center. She needs to

contact with the Chairman to learn exactly what her role will be within this committee. Ms. Offenbach is continuing to assist members of the “Safe Grad” committee. The committee has identified what brochures, information sheets (about substance use/drinking, safe decision making, they want me to send to the families of the seniors. Juvenile Review Board had an administrative meeting this month. There will be two new referrals for next month.

Paula Pascoe, Senior Center Director, distributed her written report. She noted that the Suffield Mini Bus department is moving into the Senior Center Feb. 16. The Mini Bus telephone will remain the same and be forwarded to the Senior Center. Once Fiber is brought to the Senior Center, we will have the ability to add additional phone lines. We are highlighting scams during March. Webster Bank will be holding a workshop on Elder Financial Abuse March 17. Joan Scata of Suffield has volunteered her Notary Public services to the Senior Center. Her telephone number is included in our Newsletter; those who need her services will call her directly so she may schedule an appointment to meet her in the Senior Center. Suffield Health and Wellness will be presenting a workshop on joint replacement, March 24. The Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner is scheduled for April 22.

Chairman’s Report – Mr. Michalman noted that a special meeting of the commission was held January 28. The Directors were asked to submit questions that will be considered for placement in a residents needs survey. It appears that the Town has not ever had such a survey of needs. The Commission discussed ways to distribute the Town Survey; in the Suffield Observer, other news papers, and or mailed directly to every house hold. This every house hold mailing will cost perhaps as much as \$10,000 or more. That is not in out budget, so we seek funding from the Board of Finance. Questions were collected by the Chairman, and there will be another special meeting soon; the date and other information will be sent out to the members by the Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary, Social Services Commission
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