

Minutes of the Social Services Commission
March 10, 2016 – Senior Center – 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Rob Michalman, Faith Roebelen, MaryEllen Tunsky, Bob Brooks, Sharon Kozaczka

Absent; Ruth Clark, Marcia Dufore

Directors: Paula Pascoe, Janet Frechette, Leslie Offenbach

Chairman Rob Michalman called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: Mr. Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the Feb. 11, 2016 meeting; Ms. Tunsky seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Directors' Reports

Paula Pascoe, Director of the Senior Center

We are adding a chair massage service on the first Thursday of each month, beginning in April. The fee is reasonable at \$10 for 15 minutes, and \$20 for 30 minutes. Cathy Christian-Hughes is the Licensed Massage Therapist. Dr. Charles Zantor a clinical psychologist, has agreed to provide a free workshop, "Memory Across the Lifespan" on June 16, at 10:30 a.m.

The First National Bank of Suffield has agreed to donate an I-Pad for the Center. She plans to set up a bulletin board for services provided and services needed. She plans to put a disclaimer on the board that the Town of Suffield and its Employees do not sponsor nor is responsible for the outcome of any post on the board and further reserve the right to remove any inappropriate or outdated post.

She has completed the municipal Matching Fund Grant; Suffield's share is \$32,419. Each town is allocated an amount based on a percentage of census figures of the town's population of individuals age 60 and up and a percentage of the square miles of the Town. She will attend two workshops. One on March 30th for Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulations and the second workshop, April 20th for Understanding ADA: ADA and Paratransit.

Janet Frechette, EAA Director, Social Services

Fuel Aid: We have taken more than 190 applications for the state's program to date. The deadline for receiving a deliverable fuel is March 15. The last day to apply for any type of aid is March 2nd. Operation Fuel: The program has been open since November. As residents exhaust their state fuel eligibility, they can apply for this resource. EAA Private Fuel Bank: This local resource will be tapped more often as residents exhaust other fuel options. Due to the significantly lower fuel prices, our pre-buy fund is in good shape. The Juvenile Review Board (JRB) did hear a new case in March and will meet two times in the month of April. The Grief Support Group: The next group will start on April 1st, and will continue for 8 consecutive weeks.

Leslie Offenbach, Director of Youth Services

She continues to participate on the Bridge Street School Community committee. Currently we are working to identify types of programs and opportunities the center could offer and best utilize the space. She is finalizing the ordering of the brochure, "Youth, Alcohol and Other Drugs." which will be placed in the envelope with the report cards going to high school families at the end of the month. She has offered the Middle School the same brochure to be sent to their families as the brochure reinforces the importance of starting no later than Middle School to talk with their children about drugs and alcohol. She attended the first meeting of the "North Central Opioid Addiction Task Force," in Enfield. This task force is made up of Suffield, Windsor, Windsor Locks, East Windsor, Somers and Ellington. She has access to FACEBOOK at WORK.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Michalman noted that the two Special Meetings have compiled a draft of questions for the Needs Survey. The First Selectman indicated that she will support the distribution of the survey, either by mail, or some other way. We now have to decide just how to send out this survey to all households.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary
SS.Min.March.10.2016.