

Minutes of the Social Services Commission Meeting
Thursday, April 14, 2016
Senior Center -8:30 a.m.

Members present: Rob Michalman, Ruth Clark, Marcia Dufore, Bob Brooks, MaryEllen Tunsky, Faith Roebelen, Sharon Kozaczka

First Selectman Melissa Mack

Directors present: Janet Frechette and Paula Pascoe

Absent: Director Leslie Loffenbach The Commission accepted her written report .

Chairman Rob Michalman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes of the March 10, 2016 meeting: Ms. Faith Roebelen moved to approve the minutes of the March 10 meeting; Ms. Sharon Kozaczka seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Directors' Reports:

Janet Frechette, Director, Emergency Aid Association -

Fuel Aid – The CT energy Assistance Program is still open until 5/2/16 for applicants heating with electric or gas. The deliverable fuel program has ended. Operation Fuel – The last day for oil, propane, kerosene, wood and pellets is Friday April 15. Private Fuel is still a resource and the only option currently available for residents that heat with oil or propane.

Meals-on-Wheels: MOW volunteers are going to CRT on April 27 for a recognition breakfast. The Suffield Mini-Bus will provide transportation. JRB did see 3 cases last week and 4 more cases met again to hear 4 more cases. These 7 cases are all related.

Easter/Spring Baskets: The Girl Scouts made a total of 66 baskets for age appropriate children and prepared another 32 candy bags for teens. The EAA provided hams, pies, grocery gift cards and bags of food to each household.

Annual Mail Carriers Food Drive: This is generally the biggest drive of the year. This event is planned for Saturday, May 14. We plan to have many volunteers assisting throughout the day to unpack bags, check dates and sort and stock.

The First Selectman asked this Commission to form a hoarding policy; what does the Town do? Where is our liability? We have to provide safety (fire, police, safety, etc) to the residents in their homes. The Commission discussed this at length. What role does this Commission play? Should we? This does involve mental issues at times. Ms. Mack would like for this commission to form strategies and possible solutions.

Paula Pascoe, Senior Center Director - The SMS Giraffe Club has volunteered to get the garden ready for planting as well as weeding around the building. Our concert in the courtyard is scheduled for Sunday, June 26 at 1 p.m.; this is a free concert.

Mini Bus statistics: March 2016 – passengers, 638 March 2015 passengers 617
Average ridership 29 Average ridership 27
Driving Days 22 Driving Days 23

Mileage 7,687
Driving hours 554

Mileage 6,704
Driving hours 475

The Commission discussed the feasibility of running the mini bus service on the weekend. We should explore this idea. We could use per diem drivers.

Chairman's Report – Survey to Town-Wide Survey - The Commission discussed the format of the survey in some detail; should it be 4 one sided or 2 pages, or 2 back to back with 1 page. The Chairman spoke with the Suffield Observer, and while they will publish it, there is a deadline and we are not sure that we can make. Mr. Brooks noted that the Suffield Observer would print an insert for \$600, but that carries an August 23 deadline. The Directors might note that some of the questions submitted were not included due for various reasons. Please take your copy and review it carefully; please submit new questions or any other recommendations to me. The amount of feedback will determine how many pages. At the last special meeting, members came together and with their own questions, some submitted surveys from other towns.

Chairman's Report: This is our second first draft; the department heads were asked to submit specific questions. The survey is now top priority. Mr. Michalman stated that he wants to complete this document and but we need to determine the best way to send to Suffield residents. I realize that the Commission does not meet in July or August, but we can hold special meetings during the summer; the Suffield Observer comes out in September. I would very much like to complete this survey project as soon as we can. I would like to have everything done in July; so we can place the survey in the Suffield Observer September issue. The Commission discussed the most efficient way to place the survey in the residents' hands, and most of all, return the survey back to us. We have yet to finalize the date and address for the return, etc. Mr. Micahalman requested that members carefully review, and let us know about new questions, corrections, anything you feel that should be changed.

The survey is top priority and we are going to get this done by the end of this year.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.