

Minutes of the Social Services Commission

May 12, 2016
Senior Center 8:30 a.m.

Members present:

Rob Michalman, Bob Brooks, Marcia Dufore, Ruth Clark,
Absent: MaryEllen Tunsky, Faith Roebelen, Sharon Kozaczka
Directors Paula Pascoe, Janette Frechette, Leslie Offenbach

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

Citizen Comments: None

The minutes of the April 14, 2016 meeting were by unanimous vote, approved as amended.

Directors' Reports:

Janette Frechette, Executive Director, Emergency Aid Association, distributed her monthly report. Fuel Aid: DDS is extending the end date for all households to apply for energy assistance to Tuesday, May 31, 2016. The mild winter and lower oil prices have afforded lower cost in fuel aid. The EAA can continue to accept applications for electric and gas utilities until June 24. The Emergency Food & Shelter Program is awaiting new funding of \$2,000. The Amiel Zak Public awarded our grant for the creation of the "Amiel Zak P.I.L.O.T. Center (Promoting Independent Learning of Online Technology.). The purpose is to provide for a private office space, dedicated for the use of EAA clients, for navigating their own online eligibilities. The Annual Mail Carriers Food Drive is Saturday, May 14. Soups, condiments and cans are suggested.

Paula Pascoe, Senior Center Director, distributed her monthly report with attached 5 Year comparison of Mini Bus statistics and the Mini Bus weekend service survey. The vegetable garden will be planted in the next two weeks. She attended a workshop on Understanding ADA: ADA and Paratransit, and found this to be very informative. The Commission discussed the statistics, and noted that in April, 690 passengers traveled 7,595 miles during 21 days of service.

Leslie Offenbach, Youth Services Director, distributed her monthly report. She reported that the "Boys Group" at McAlister will end at the end of the month and she plans to start it up again next year. The "Girls Group" at the High School will end at the end of the month and she will offer the program next year. She continues to participate on the Bridge Street School Community Center committee. She continues to attend meetings of the "North Central Opioid Addiction Task Force in Enfield. She reminded

the Commission of the Suffield Local Prevention Council and Suffield Youth Services of Eric Stratton presentation May 17, 2016, at the Suffield High School Auditorium, at 7 – 9 p.m. The presentation covers information about drugs and the connection between drug use and social media.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Michalman noted that he had asked for feedback regarding the proposed questions to be used in the Needs Survey. He has received feedback from Mr. Brooks and Ms. Frechette. He will continue to complete the survey. Distribution of the survey is the difficulty. The cost is prohibitive and process is a problem. We need to have a method in place to get the survey returned.

Old Business

In response to a past inquiry by the First Selectman, why not Mini Bus service on Saturdays and Sundays? A survey was reviewed and discussed. This is a multifaceted service question; issues of funding, drivers, schedules, etc. Mr. Brooks moved that we defer this question until the meeting in September and discuss weekend transportation and possible options. Ms. Dufore seconded, and the motion to defer was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Brooks asked Ms. Pascoe if she could try and formulate the expenses of such a program for a report at the September meeting.

New Business

Ms. Frechette reported she had called a meeting of local officials, public safety personnel, and other officials to discuss what to do about hoarders. How do we protect our officials from harm, others spoke about what about the rights of the individual, the tenant, and landlord. We need a legal consensus about what law allows or not. This truly a huge task, to develop a policy of hoarding. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

There will be a special meeting in July with the agenda, Needs Survey and its distribution. The date will be sent to you at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary SS.Minutes.May.12.2016