

Minutes of the Social Services Commission
September 8, 2016
Senior Center

Members present:

Rob Michalman, Janet Frechette, Faith Roebelen, Paula Pasco, Ruth Clark, Sharon Skozaczka, Marcia Dufore, Bob Brooks, Leslie Offenbach

Absent: MaryEllen Tunskey

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

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: Ms. Skozaczka moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2016; Ms. Clark seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Directors' Reports

Janet Frechette, Director, Emergency Aid Association distributed her written report.

Fuel Aid: The State's Energy Assistance Program is open to applicants with an official program date of November 9th as the first date that residents can obtain deliverable fuel.

The EAA has started taking applications with the goal of getting as many residents processed as possible prior to the start date. **Operation Fuel:** The EAA can continue to accept applications for electric and gas utilities until Monday, October 31. During the summer months, a total of 8 applications were taken with a total benefit of \$3825.07.

Meals- on-Wheels: Since early July, there has been a moratorium on new applications. This greatly affects our ability to serve Suffield's home bound senior residents who need the service. It is hoped that we can begin to take new referrals beginning Oct. 1.

Salvation Army: We have nearly depleted our budget for the current fiscal year, ending Sept. 30. With the help of Sacred Heart Church, we purchased 90 shoes vouchers, a \$30 value; we paid \$24.

Paula Pascoe, Director of Senior Center distributed her written report. She reviewed briefly upcoming Senior Center highlights, beginning September 15 through Oct. 27th.

She will be participating in an Emergency Operations Central drill on Sept. 13th and a statewide Emergency Operations Center Drill on Nov. 2nd. Soup lunches on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays will begin November 1st; twelve (12) oz. of soup and a pack of crackers will be offered for \$2.00.

Mini Bus Statistics:

In July, 2016, 547 passengers traveled 5,946 miles during 20 days of service

In August, 2016, 582 passengers traveled, 7,211 miles during 23 days of service.

She also submitted her list of goals to improve efficiency and accountability improvements of the Mini Bus services.

Leslie Offenbach, Director of Youth Services Bureau, distributed her written report. Juvenile Review Board: No cases for August, but will meet in September to follow up on a previous case. She is continuing to work with the First Selectman on the structure of the JRB per Town Charter. She is continuing to attend meetings of the “North Central Opioid Addiction Task Force” in Enfield. She began to meet in a smaller committee which is focusing prevention work specifically around youth. The Suffield Local Prevention Council has begun with its Mission Statement and goals. We will be sharing a booth with the Ambulance, Fire Department, and Police Department at Suffield on the Green. Folders of information will be distributed and brochures about substance use and prevention are available. At the request of the First Selectman –Youth Services, Senior Center, Parks and Rec, and the Library has been meeting with goals of working together more frequently and co-sponsoring town events such as the upcoming Halloween Event.

Chairman’s Update

Unfinished Business: The Chairman noted that the discussion regarding hoarding and its related issues will be tabled until the October meeting.

Survey: The comments from members were reviewed and Mr. Michalman included any new and appropriate material. The Survey will be sent by mail; and mailed out with a self addressed envelope postage. The distribution will be taken from the Town mailing list, sending to the exact name, but it will be a 50% sampling of the List, using every other name. There will be “drop off boxes” in various town locations. October 31 will be the closure date, when all returned surveys will be reviewed by the Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary MIN.September8.2016