



**Wilton Social Services Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021-6:00pm
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order – Peg Koellmer, Chair
6:08 pm
2. Acceptance of the minutes of February 11, 2021
Minutes accepted w/no changes.
3. Committee Reports
Comparison of Tax Relief Programs of Nearby Towns – Suzanne
 - Income limits in almost every town but each town defines it differently
 - Eligibility generally the same across towns: for over 65, disabled and in some cases, veterans
 - Requirements similar: Resident, owned property for past year, not delinquent in your taxes
 - Two types of relief, waiver or deferral
 - Some towns have asset limits
 - Benefits on a sliding scale
 - Will need to meet w/tax assessor for exactly how benefit is calculated in Wilton
 - A tax benefit for veterans exists in Wilton
 - Wilton tax assessor will consider on a case-by-case basis, residents whose incomes decreased due to COVID19.
 - Most towns require residents to apply for state tax benefit as well
 - The goal is for a more user-friendly program in Wilton

Navigating Covid19 for Non-profits – Danielle?

4. Liaison reports

SWACA – Sarah

- Still providing assistance such as in home care and applying for state benefits
- Looking at how various senior centers are going to be reopening

Stay at Home Wilton – Peg

- Group is looking for office space
- Would like location to be center of town on the ground floor
- Volunteer drives are mostly at a high-risk group for getting Covid19 so they are unable to serve at the time.

Wilton Library – Peg

- Recent information is that the governor is leaving it up to towns to decide when to open to the public
- Until then, will do delivery by mail
- Keeping community engaged with programs such as Wilton Reads

Housing Committee – Bettye

- Erin Boggs, Executive Director of Open Communities Alliance an advocacy group for zoning reform.
- Separately, the town is evaluating a number of multi-unit housing projects that set aside a percentage of units for affordable housing.
- The housing committee is looking for more members.

Wilton Youth Council – Suzanne

- Gave a Zoom presentation on the 'Birds and the Bees.'

5. Sarah Heath report

- In person services ceased one year ago
- Food pantry never closed but relocated to the exterior following social distancing requirements
- Police and Parks and Recreation helped in the relocation
- Kiwanis provided tens of thousands of dollars of gift cards and donations.
- Village Market, Caraluzzis, Stop and Shop and various other places also provided donations
- Social Services Commission pivoted to provide remotely to eligible residents, regular services such as, programming, counseling and referrals.
- Drive through senior luncheons are hugely popular
- Grateful to all the volunteer associations

- Hope to hire soon a 30hr/wk youth services coordinator whose duties include a social work and counseling component

6. Public Comment

No public comments

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maxine Tobias