

**Wilton Social Services Commission  
Meeting Thursday, January 14, 2021 -  
6:00pm**

**Minutes**

1. Welcome, Peg Koellmer, Chair
2. Acceptance of Minutes of December 10, 2020 meeting.  
Suzanne makes a motion to accept the minutes  
Betty seconds the motion  
Motion is approved
3. Guest, Sarah Scacco, Wilton Assessor to discuss Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Program
  - In 2019 added to ordinance an appeal process, minimum tax credit and option to readjust credits
  - Present chart comparing tax credit programs of New Canaan, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, Westport and Wilton
  - Describe current process
  - Suggest review of eligibility requirements and calculation of credits
  - Peg suggest we also look at Stratford, which uses the step method and where Sarah previously served.
  - Discuss pros and cons of step chart calculation vs. formula calculation
  - Suggest considering how distribution is spread
  - Suggest updating comparison chart
  - Suzanne agrees to research tax credit programs of nearby towns.
4. Discussion of changes to Social Services Charge
  - Peg presented changes proposed in 2014, which were rejected.
  - Discussion to reduce board members from nine to sevenSuzanne makes a motion to change number of board members to seven  
Danielle seconds the motion  
Motion is approved
  - Discussion to change commission makeup from five and four to four and threeSuzanne makes a motion to change from five and four to four and three  
Bettye seconds motion  
Motion is approved
  - Committee agrees to leave July and August as the months not to meet.
  - Discussion to strike certain wording in item #2 of responsibilities.Suzanne makes a motion to strike in item#2 of responsibilities:  
“... in concert with the Director of Social Services, may develop written policies to guide the administration and operation of the department of Social Services, with said policies subject to review and approval of the Board of Selectmen. Upon request, the Commission Chairman will provide to the First Selectman an evaluation of staff personnel and candidates for open staff positions.”  
Danielle seconds the motion

Motion is approved

5. Discussion of a Program to Assist Non-profits in regard to COVID

- Daniel agrees to take on project to review COVID19 survey questions as well as find speakers to give Zoom presentations and answer questions that non-profits may have. First of three topics would be on the process for applying for SBA and PPP loans

6. Liaison assignments

- Wilton Library - Peg
- SWCAA - Sarah
- Public and Private schools - Danielle
- Wilton Youth Council - Suzanne
- Housing Committee - Bettye
- Stay at Home Wilton - Peg

7. Directors Report - Sarah Heath

- For the December holidays, distributed gift cards in lieu of gift baskets due to COVID19. There were enough gift cards to give out to everyone with a need.
- As a way to connect, delivered Christmas and Thanksgiving meals to individuals identified as high risk such as people who are home alone because of COVID19
- Has similar plans for Valentine's Day meal delivery
- Would like commission chair to reach out to connections for volunteers.
- In lieu of luncheons, starting in October held drive thru meal events. Gave out 185 meals in December. Stay at Home Wilton and other volunteers dropped off meals to individuals who aren't able to get out and drive.
- Senior Center held zoom events.
- Helped people with applying for assistance.
- After an initial decrease in demand because of the pandemic, food pantry numbers are increasing.
- Current focus is in answering numerous questions on vaccination for residents 75 years or older.
- Peg asked if food bag pickups were discontinued. Sarah replied that she would look into it. Kudos to Village Market
- Last month social services helped 85 households with food. There are over 350 eligible individuals in town.

8. Public Comment

- No Public Comment

9. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maxine Tobias