

Office of Social Services
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

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

1. Welcome, Peg Koellmer, Chair
Meeting is called to order at 6:16pm.
2. Acceptance of the minutes of January 14, 2021
Bettye makes a motion to approve minutes.
Maxine seconds.
Motion is approved.
3. Forrest Close, President of Trackside BOD to present the Trackside budget
 - Forrest summarizes Trackside's budget, commenting on Covid19's impact on fundraising.
 - As structured, town funding is decreasing.
 - Trackside moved to a membership model and attracted approximately 200 members.
 - In the coming year, they will be offering more programming, thus collecting more program fees.
 - On the cost side, Trackside hired a program coordinator starting in late FY 2021.
 - Bottom line, Forrest feels comfortable that fundraising will more than make up for the slight deficit.
4. Committee reports
Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Programs
 - Suzanne reviewed tax relief programs of towns surrounding Wilton.
 - Plans to put together a simple chart for comparison.
 - Will meet with Sarah Scacco and the accountant in March.
 - Suggests fleshing out how income is defined will help target the right people.Wilton Non-profit Assistance Committee
 - Danielle to report later.
5. Liaison reports
Stay at Home
 - Peg had a long chat with them.
 - Availability of volunteer drivers is down because most are in a high-risk group.
 - This is offset by more appointments conducted online via Zoom.

- Membership is slightly down because of Covid19 but they expect it to pick up when the pandemic subsides.

Wilton Library

- Peg reports that they are taking appointments and the drive thru is open.

SWCAA

- Social Services and Senior Services/Center under Sarah Heath are in touch with SWCAA frequently.
- Sarah reports that SWCAA share information on topics relevant to seniors, most notably Medicare and getting seniors vaccinated.
- Implementation of the town vaccine clinic is incredibly complicated with vaccine delivery unpredictable. Its success is due to a dedicated team of town departments, offices and local organizations.

Wilton Youth Council

- Suzanne reports that WYC has been doing well with events and fundraising.
- WYC is pleased that the Social Services commission plans to keep in touch with them.
- They asked about two youth counselor positions they believed are vacant.
- Sarah clarifies that one position is filled and the second position is posted. Both are part-time.

Housing Committee

- Bettye reports that the housing committee met twice.
- She explains that the focus of the group is to look for housing solutions that address a variety of demographics such as seniors, empty nesters, recent college graduates and small families.
- Vacant property is scarce, so they are looking at adapting existing buildings such as office buildings.

6. Sarah Heath report

- Her entire staff is focused on getting priority groups vaccinated.
- They reached out to over a thousand residents over 75 and assisted them in making vaccine appointments and will continue to assist any who haven't yet been vaccinated
- They are not making appointments for the 65 to 74 group, but they are supporting them by offering help in using VAMS and understanding what is available.
- Her office continues to offer Zoom events and the successful monthly drive thru luncheons. They are hosted by various groups, adding to the social aspect of the event.
- The food pantry is doing well but hours are limited due to the holidays, the weather and safety restrictions under COVID19 limiting staffing to office staff.
- In addition to the vaccine project, they continue to provide help with seeking assistance in energy, housing, food stamps, health insurance, etc.

7. Public Comment

No comments

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn passes

Meeting is adjourned at 7:03pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maxine Tobias