

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

**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