

TO: minutesandagendas@wiltonct.org

FROM: Maxine Tobias of the Social Services Commission

RE: Minutes of the Town of Wilton's Social Services Commission's regular meeting of **October 14, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Social Services Commission was held on **October 14, 2021** at **6:18PM**, **Peg Koellmer presiding.**

The Social Services Commission Meeting of **October 14, 2021** was conducted virtually via Zoom at the following web address:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85755304368?pwd=ak5NNGxwU1c2c3lXQ0FsWDF2ZjBTZz09>.

Those in attendance were aware that the **October 14, 2021** regular meeting of the Commission was being recorded.

The following Commissioners were present: **Peg Koellmer, Chair; Bettye Ragognetti, Vice Chair; Maxine Tobias, Member.** The following Commissioners were not present: **Danielle Mancuso, Member; Suzanne Wakeen, Member.** Also present was **Lauren Hughes, Coordinator of Senior Services and Family Programs.**

Guest Presentation – Lauren Hughes

Last time Lauren presented before the Social Services Commission was February 2020, just before the building was closed to the public due to Covid19. Enrolling seniors in Medicare and Social Security takes up more of her job because people are retiring later, and laws have become more complicated. In addition, Social Security enrollment is done entirely online. Lauren is the food pantry point person. Pre-pandemic, volunteers manned the food pantry. Increased gift card donations offset some of the extra work staff took on for the food pantry. The Wilton community is overwhelmingly generous and pantry shelves are never empty. SNAP (replaced the old food stamp program) doesn't cover personal care items and paper goods, but the food pantry has funds to help cover this gap. Lauren cited many community groups that donate their time and resources to the food pantry during major holidays and throughout the year. In January, she happily sends many 'thank you' notes.

The Commissioners will approve the Commission's regular meeting minutes of **June 10, 2021** at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Adopt a Grandparent – Peg

This is an offshoot of Wilton Helping Hands. In attendance at the first meeting last week were members of the local religious community, Board of Ed, Sarah Heath, and Peg Koellmer. The group decided on starting a pen pal program with the Social Services department compiling information for the next meeting.

Liaison Reports

Housing – Bettye

Sept. and Oct. meetings cancelled. Two new people joined the committee, one is a real estate person.

WiltonY – Peg

The fundraiser was a success, and the weather was perfect.

Kiwanis – Peg

Held a gift card drive in front of the Village Market. Donated cash was turned into gift cards.

Director's Report – Sarah Heath

Not present at this meeting

Public Comment – Peg Koellmer

No public comments received.

The next regular meeting will be held on **November 11, 2021** virtually via Zoom and will be recorded.

The meeting was adjourned at **7:05 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Maxine Tobias