

Office of Social Services
Telephone (203) 834-6238
Fax (203) 563-0172



TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**Wilton Social Services Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 13, 2021-6:00pm
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order – Peg Koellmer, Chair
2. Acceptance of the minutes of March 11, 2021
3. Committee Reports

Comparison of Tax Relief Programs of Nearby Towns – Suzanne

- Town wants recommendation of changes to current program
- Funds aren't being fully utilized
- Raise income limits, lower age eligibility?
- Reaching target demographics?
- Identify social service clients who are homeowners and reach out to them on a case-by-case basis
- Need to identify total number of households who meet criteria to determine how many people qualify and determine average amount of tax relief for each in order to come up with an estimate.
- However, program will deviate from state program if changing age eligibility
- Will need to set up a meeting soon. Meeting should include Sarah Scacco, Suzanne and other appropriate representatives.
- Announcements of the tax program are published in Corridors and local newspapers. Flyers are inserted with tax bills.
- Commission members are encouraged to sign up for Corridors

Navigating Covid19 for Non-profits – Danielle

- Will provide list of non-profits for the next meeting
- June is last meeting before September
-

4. Liaison reports

Wilton Library – Peg

- Recent information from the CDC is that there is no longer a mask mandate, indoor or outdoor, no matter the number count.
- Library is slowly opening up and will have June Book sale consisting of approximately seventy thousand books.
- When the books are cleared out in the basement, they will start accepting books again

SWACA – Sarah

- Reach out to seniors in community that need vaccine

Public and private schools – Danielle

- All the teachers are vaccinated in private schools, students eat lunch in their rooms and go outside in one group.
- Kids are benefitting with return to in person school.
- Wilton schools will resume in person. In person high school graduation is planned and middle school students will have soaring ahead parade in person.

Wilton Youth Council – Suzanne

- Nothing to report at this time

Housing Committee – Bettye

- Still three members but they are hoping to expand committee
- Housing committee discussion about a handful development proposals
- About ten percent are affordable units are usually set aside.
- Affordable housing rentals usually expire in about ten years
- There is a smattering of affordable house condos that don't expire. Town employees then town senior citizens are given priority, then it opens up to the public if they are still available
- Currently, finding a rental in this area is almost impossible

Stay at Home Wilton – Peg

- Will have virtual fundraiser in June
- Wilton helping hands was a success

5. Sarah Heath report

- Bettye would like to give special thanks to Lynne, Barry and everyone in the vaccine committee. They did a terrific job.
- A youth services coordinator has been selected and is in the process of being hired. The position is 30hrs/week and with full benefits.

- Senior center is open with social distancing and requiring masks.
- Still doing drive through luncheons serving between 150 -180 residents each event. Plan to continue past pandemic.
- Social services numbers are down as other towns in the area.
- Thanks to Kiwanis for gift cards as well as donations to the food pantry from individuals.
- Number of households using food pantry is climbing to pre-covid numbers
- Camp is starting. Scholarships are available.
- Funds are available to assist households with financial needs once pandemic related aid expires.
- Commissioners can tour Comstock during the summer.
- Everyone likes Zoom meetings, especially during the winter. Maybe meet in person in September

6. Public Comment

No public comment

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:57pm unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Maxine Tobias