



Town of Fairfield
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

A meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities, 100 Mona Terrace.

PRESENT: Linda DeLorenzo-Secretary, Carolyn Durgy, Loretta Jay, Bernard Lynch-Chairman, George Markley, Rabbi Barbara Paris (4:10), Suzanne Testani

ABSENT: Laura Incerto-Vice Chair, Nhi Tran

ALSO PRESENT: Julie DeMarco-Director of Human and Social Services

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernard Lynch at 4:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Bernard Lynch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of December 19, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Loretta Jay motioned to approve the minutes. Linda DeLorenzo seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 6-0.

2. Old Business

a) Board of Health

Ms. Durgy reported attending her first Board of Health meeting where their project target schedule was reviewed. She said there are 800 new apartments that are planning to be built throughout Town and housing was a big issue that was discussed at the meeting. Ms. DeMarco will send the back-up documentation to the Commission.

b) Committee for People with Disabilities

Ms. Jay was voted in as Chair by the Committee. Ms. DeMarco met with First Selectwoman Kupchick who supports the Committee becoming a Commission. The next steps are to determine whether it goes to the BOS or the RTM to become established. If it goes before the RTM, Mr. Lynch suggested writing letters of support to RTM members.

Ms. Jay said they are thinking of various types of activities and projects for the year. The Stakeholder Breakfast in April can serve as a kick-off if the Commission is established. Mr. Lynch congratulated all involved that helped in creating the Committee over the last two years.

c) Friends of the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities – no report.

3. New Business

a) Election of Officers

George Markley nominated Bernard Lynch for Chair, Laura Incerto for Vice Chair and Linda DeLorenzo for Secretary. Carolyn Durgy seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 7-0.

4. Department Update

a) Staffing

A new part-time director, Amy O'Donnell, will begin February 3, 2020. She is from Sturges Ridge.

Melina Johnson, who replaced Kristen, will begin Monday as lead in Social Services.

Allison Seal also filled a part-time position.

Ms. DeMarco met with First Selectwoman Kupchick on the Budget. She submitted a request for a Senior Center Director and a full-time Lead Social Services Director.

An Open House will be held Thursday, March 19 from 4:30-5:30. It is for elected officials to get a feel for Social Services and Transportation, not just the Senior Center. Staff will give tours and answer questions and they welcome Commissioners to attend and assist. It is not a structured event.

A State public health long-term care insurance seminar will be held the evening of March 19.

b) Bigelow Center

- AARP Tax Assistance
Tax assistance for seniors and the disabled will be offered Mondays and Wednesdays at the Bigelow Center beginning in February by AARP and the Tax Assessor's Office.

First Selectwoman Kupchick came for an informal "coffee and" which was well attended and there were some good questions. They plan to hold quarterly.

b) Social Services

- Holidays – Discussed in a previous meeting.
- Needs Assessment

SHU will do a similar assessment for veteran's services to ascertain gaps, what can be improved and what's lacking.

The Third Annual Comedy Night will be held March 26 at Penfield Pavilion. Those who attended last year's event highly recommend it. Last year over \$5,000 was raised for summer camps. Ms. Testani offered help with the raffle. Several ideas were considered.

Agenda item for next month - what we're allowed to do.

Mr. Lynch will forward Fairfield Senior Advocates two sessions to the Commission.

There was further discussion on the distinction between commissions, committees and task forces and what town officials should attend future disabilities meetings.

5. Public Comment – none.

6. Adjourn

Loretta Jay motioned to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. George Markley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Tesei,
Recording Secretary

**The next Commission meeting will be on February 27, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.
Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by Human Services Commission.**