



Town of Fairfield
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYu2CCY41Mg>

A virtual meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, September 24, 2020.

PRESENT: Linda DeLorenzo-Secretary, Loretta Jay, Bernard Lynch-Chairman, Rabbi Barbara Paris, Suzanne Testani, Nhi Tran

ABSENT: Carolyn Durgy, Laura Incerto-Vice Chair, George Markley

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernard Lynch at 4:04 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – A brief moment of silence was held for all those affected by the pandemic.

2. Approval of July 23, 2020, Meeting Minutes - *Suzanne Testani motioned to approve the minutes. Linda DeLorenzo seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 6-0.*

3. Old Business

- Board of Health – no report.
- Retreat – Ms. Jay reported on the Retreat Committee’s Zoom discussion. The Committee consists of Mr. Markley, Rabbi Paris, Ms. Incerto and herself. They set the Retreat’s date as Thursday, November 19, 2020, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., in lieu of the November meeting. Location TBA and will be in person adhering to social distance guidelines. Dorothea Brennan will Facilitate and donate her time. Ms. Jay listed Ms. Brennan’s credentials and experience. The Committee will continue with their efforts at their meeting next week and Ms. Brennan will join them at the following meeting. Rabbi Paris said the Committee felt it was important to build in time to get to know one another before the Retreat. Mr. Lynch said the Retreat’s Plan will be available at the next Human Services meeting to review.
- Committee for People with Disabilities – Ms. Jay had no report but would like to hear if there has been any communication with the Administration regarding the Committee becoming a Commission. Ms. DeMarco said there has not been talk with First Selectwoman Kupchick since much business has been is on hold due to COVID but suggested inviting Mr. Bremer to their meeting as a good next step. Ms. Jay suggested contacting Town Attorney, James Baldwin, as well. She asked Ms. DeMarco since the likelihood this pandemic will continue for at least another year how do you see the business of the Town moving forward. Ms. DeMarco responded that things are normalizing in terms of the Town and as far as the Commission, it a good time to continue momentum.

- Friends of the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities – Ms. DeMarco reported Friends is busy continuing to actively sponsor programs and presentations. They generously funded emergency backpacks for people who don't have support.

4. New Business

- **Nominating Committee**

Mr. Lynch stated the Commission will elect officers for the 2020-2021 year and that there are a number of terms expiring in November 2020. He suggested George Markley as Nominating Committee Chair who also chaired last year. He requested anyone else interested in serving to contact him and Suzanne Testani volunteered. Ms. DeMarco read Jen Carpenter's email clarifying committee member term requirements. Mr. Lynch said they need clarification on individual member's terms to provide guidance to the Nominating Committee. Mr. Lynch will notify Mr. Markley of his nomination.

Loretta Jay nominated George Markley as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Barbara Paris seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 6-0.

5. Department Update

Social Services

- Staff is in and the Department is open but not to the public. One-on-one Medicare open enrollment is being held but all other business is still done via phone. Paperwork is dropped off and picked up in front of the building. Medicare applicants should bring a list of medications and create an online ".gov account".

Senior Center

- Zoom Programs are being aired. The neighboring Town's Senior Centers are sharing programs which expands the content that we wouldn't be able to normally provide.
- 6,200 lunches were delivered by CERT volunteers and buses.
- Mobile food pantries continue to deliver groceries every other week.
- Amy O'Donnell has retired and moved to Texas. Her position will be posted.
- Flu shots are being administered Thursday's by appointment.

6. Any Other Business which shall properly come before this Commission – none.

Adjourn – Suzanne Testani motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m. Nhi Tran seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Tesei
Recording Secretary

**The next Commission meeting will be on October 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by Human Services Commission.**