



Town of Fairfield
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wphrbHxr2RI>

A virtual meeting of the Human Services Commission was held Thursday, November 19, 2020.

PRESENT: Carolyn Durgy, Linda DeLorenzo-Secretary, Laura Incerto-Vice Chair, Loretta Jay, Bernard Lynch-Chairman, George Markley, Rabbi Barbara Paris, Suzanne Testani, 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 4:02 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – A brief moment of silence was held for all those who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Mr. Lynch congratulated Carolyn Durgy, Rabbi Paris and Loretta Jay on their reappointments.

2. Approval of October 22, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Laura Incerto motioned to approve the minutes. Linda DeLorenzo seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 9-0.

3. Old Business

- Board of Health – Ms. Durgy spoke with Health Director, Mr. Cleary, today and he said the virus was going up but the flu is light. He has begun flu clinics.
- Committee for People with Disabilities – Mr. Lynch said the meeting was cancelled. Ms. DeMarco said they were waiting to hear back from the Town as it goes before the BOS and the Town Attorney. Mr. Lynch said he hoped it would be presented at one of the December meetings. He said if you'd like to sit on the Committee to please contact Ms. Jay.
- Friends of the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities – Ms. DeMarco reported Friends are sponsoring a monthly Zoom program highlighting a different Fairfield location.

4. New Business

- Commission Board

Mr. Lynch said Mr. Markley will make a Nominating Committee report, establish a calendar and hold the election at the December meeting. The officers will be in place for the January meeting.

Mr. Markley said the Nominating Committee, he and Ms. Testani, met via telephone regarding a proposed slate of three officers for the coming year. The nominations are Chair; Laura Incerto,

Vice Chair; Linda DeLorenzo and Secretary; George Markley. There was further discussion on the process of nominations and appointments. Mr. Lynch and Ms. DeMarco can forward recommendations of those interested.

5. Department Update

- The Senior Center continues to deliver food; about 50 meals a day, about 8,000 since the pandemic hit. They are looking into beginning a food pantry with Social Services.
- Social Services is energy assistance involved. The First Selectwoman has added this to her weekly updates and generating new clients.
- Holiday giving season has started. This year will exclusively be gift cards and will be disbursed the first week of December. They can accept cash or checks to buy gift cards. Donations can be dropped off in a secured box in front of building or mailed. Mr. Markley said checks can be sent to him made out to Fairfield Rotary. He will mail to the Senior Center. Mr. Markley explained the Rotary gift card program which he has run for 11 years, they buy at discount and profits are used toward humanitarian causes. He will send Mr. Lynch information.
- Holy Family Church connected dinners to Operation Hope for Thanksgiving. We refer families to Operation Hope and coordinate with them. They should go directly there if you know of a family.
- The Center is fully staffed with regular hours but depending on the pandemic spike, hours may stagger. Ms. DeMarco narrowed down Senior Center Director applicants and the part-time position will probably begin January, we have some wonderful applications.
- Jewish Family Services will give out chickens and fixings and if you know of a needy family, please refer them.
- The Fairfield Senior Advocates proposal to P&Z for an affordable housing hearing was held October 22 but the vote was deferred to December 8. The Commission was highly receptive and they could potentially expand the plan. The Advocates hope to be involved in a marketing plan.

6. Any Other Business which shall properly come before this Commission

Mr. Markey thanked Mr. Lynch for his service. Mr. Lynch appreciated all the work Mrs. DeMarco and the department is doing especially under the circumstances. Ms. Jay asked if we need to do anything before the BOS meeting. Ms. DeMarco said the Commission needs to approve the Charge. Mr. Lynch wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Adjourn –Loretta Jay motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:34 p.m. Laura Incerto seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Tesei
Recording Secretary

**The next Commission meeting will be on December 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by Human Services Commission.**