

Woodbridge Human Services Commission

Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Meeting

Conducted via WebEx

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/ORgzsboEAM8>

Members Present via WebEx Platform: J. Clarke-Lofters, S. Davidson, N. L. Atwood, V. Livesay, A. Holzman, B.P. Madden

Staff present: J. Glicksman, Human Services Director, N. Pfund, Youth Services Director, J. Young, Senior Services Social Worker, K. Moriarty, Woodbridge Center Assistant

Liaisons: D. Rowland, BOS Liaison

Absent: M.L. Sabshin, J. Labieniec, J. Ciarleglio, T. Kenefick, BOF Liaison

Meeting called to order 7:12 p.m. by S. Davidson, Chair.

I. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

II. Liaison Reports

- Board of Selectmen – D. Rowland provided the update. Town signed an extension with the Amity Historical Society. Next BOS meeting is August 12, 2020 - bond issue for renovation of the old firehouse and work at Beecher Road School.
- Board of Finance – None.

III. Minutes of the March 2, 2020 Meeting

B. P. Madden made a motion to accept amended minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting. N.L. Atwood seconded. All approved.

IV. Additions to the Agenda – No additions to the Agenda

V. Human Services

J. Glicksman presented the March - July, 2020 Human Services Report, which is on file in the Human Services office.

- Senior Services Social Worker COVID19 Outreach update – J. Young provided an update regarding the department's community outreach. The department contacted all residents 70 years of age and older and assisted with requests as needed, including referrals and assistance. Other programs included the distribution of meals and

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transportation to medical appointments. Masks were also distributed to residents and were made available for pick up or delivery.

- STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant - J. Glicksman provided some background information on the grant. In 2017, the department applied for a STEAP grant in the amount of \$500,000. Silver Petrucelli was hired to create a plan and then the State withdrew the grant program. Since then, the department has completed phases of the work on The Center, i.e., painting, carpeting and handicap-accessible ramp and ADA compliant restroom. In late July 2020, Governor Lamont announced that grants would be released, but at a lesser amount. The next anticipated phase involves the creation of a reception area (with COVID in mind), new flooring, some minor modifications to HVAC, office reconfigurations and a sports equipment closet. If the department has enough funding, it would also like to install a room divider.
- 5310 Grant/Vehicle Report - Human Services is in the final stages of getting the grant vehicle. The department is currently down to one vehicle and will be receiving a used vehicle from the WPD tomorrow. A “sneeze guard” has been installed on the van.
- Technology update - In May 2020, the department and other Town departments lost all the data on computers. Some lost files permanently. As a result, the department will be getting two new computers and everyone will be getting an upgrade to their existing computer systems. Older computers will be replaced next year.

V. Livesay made a motion to accept the March - July 2020 Human Services report. B. P. Madden seconded. All approved.

VI. Youth Services

N. Pfund presented the March – July 2020 Youth Services Reports, which are on file in the Human Services office.

- Programming -
 - Youth Services received much needed food items for the Town’s food pantry from Amity Middle School-Bethany; the department also received monetary donations in the amount of \$408
 - Two day Red Cross Babysitting training for ages 12-18 is scheduled for August 11 from 9am-1pm (virtually) and August 12, 9am-1pm (outdoors under tent)
 - Amity Middle School-Bethany PTSO wants to do welcome bags. Youth Services agreed to assist.
 - After School Guided Study program - this program was cut short due to COVID-19

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- Chalk Art Challenge - the competition was open to Bethany and Woodbridge families and winners will be listed on the Town of Woodbridge website
- First Selectman's Youth Award - Alexander (AJ) Pocwierz won the 2020 award and received a plaque and \$200 check from Peoples United Bank. AJ was commended for his many volunteer hours as a Junior Firefighter with the Volunteer Fire Department.
- Youth Services participated in a Community Conversation (virtually) with author Ed Gordon to discuss his book entitled "Conversations in Black "
- Delivered toys to some families in town
- Staffing – N.L. Atwood made a motion to accept Cathryn Ressler as Youth Services Program Coordinator, retroactive to April 6, 2020. V. Livesay seconded. All approved.
- Grant reporting - reporting deadline requirements have been extended by the State until September 1, 2020

V. Livesay made a motion to accept the March - July 2020 Youth Services reports. A. Holzman seconded. All approved.

VII. The Woodbridge Center

J. Glicksman presented the March - July 2020 Woodbridge Center Report, which is on file in the Human Services office.

- Outdoor classroom/Programming update - The Woodbridge Center worked in conjunction with the Recreation Department and the Town Library to create the Town's new outdoor classroom. A Porta Potty was also installed. The canopies came from the Recreation Department. First exercise class is scheduled for this Thursday. The outdoor classroom will be used, weather permitting, through October 2020.
- Plans for reopening/Center Director position - Senior residents in town are dealing with a lot of social isolation due to the pandemic. J. Glicksman believes that a Center Director is needed now more than ever. J. Glicksman is in communications with the Connecticut Association of Senior Center Providers. It is unlikely that The Center will reopen until it is safe to do so. In light of ongoing health concerns, Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons will be a drive through box lunch. Subcommittee should convene to start search for new Senior Center Director.
- Memoir Writing Project - The Center is receiving entries which will be bound for each participant and a copy of the collection of stories will be available at the Library. Entries must be submitted by September 30, 2020.

A. Holzman made a motion to accept the March - July 2020 Woodbridge Center Reports. V. Livesay seconded. All approved.

VIII. Old Business/New Business

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- FY21 budget changes - Human Services Department lost approximately 9.5% in its budget request. We have been assured that immediate needs will be met.
- The Commission members and staff agreed that the WebEx platform was not optimal. J. Glicksman will look into purchasing a Zoom professional license for future meetings.
- Next meeting is September 14, 2020

B. P. Madden made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. J. Clarke-Lofters seconded. All approved.

Submitted by:

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Accepted and approved this 14th Day of September, 2020.