

TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT



11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525
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Woodbridge Human Services Commission

Minutes of the February 1, 2021

Conducted via Zoom: <https://youtu.be/6VRDb69y8A>

Members Present via Zoom Platform: S. Davidson, Commission chair, J. Clarke-Lofters, V. Livesay, M.L. Sabshin, J. Labieniec, A. Holzman, B.P. Madden, J. Ciarleglio

Liaisons: E. Scalettar, BOF Liaison

Staff present: J. Glicksman, Human Services Director, N. Pfund, Youth Services Director, K. Moriarty,

Woodbridge Center Director

Absent: N. L. Atwood, D. Rowland (BOS liaison)

Meeting called to order 7:02 p.m. by S. Davidson, Commission chair

I. Public Comment

Although publicly noticed, no members of the public were in attendance. However, S. Davidson read an email from First Selectman Beth Heller thanking the Department of Human Services for its amazing work supporting the community.

II. Liaison Reports

- Board of Finance – E. Scalletar gave a brief update. The BOF is participating in listening sessions. Her overall impressions are that town departments are very mindful of the needs of residents and have submitted well thought-out budgets.

III. Minutes of the January 4, 2021 Meeting

B. P. Madden made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2021 meeting, as amended by N. Pfund and J. Glicksman. J. Ciarleglio seconded. All approved.

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

V. Human Services

J. Glicksman presented the January 2021 Human Services report orally.

- COVID update - J. Glicksman received a report today from the Department of Public Health (DPH). According to the report, Woodbridge compares very favorably to other towns in how the vaccine is being administered: 43.1% of our eligible seniors (75 and over) have been vaccinated. The statewide vaccination rate of eligible seniors 75 and over is 29.9%. Community members are getting help through the Human Services Department to reserve appointments at Woodbridge clinics and clinics elsewhere. This

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Thursday we can get 40 people into the North Haven clinic. Most of those over 75 here have said they have made appointments. Over 65's can look at CT.Gov for notices.

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program – To protect health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, VITA has suspended in-person appointments. Instead, VITA will offer telephone assistance. Those who have access to a smart phone, tablet or computer may also participate in the virtual tax prep program using VITA's new secure website. VITA volunteers will be doing intakes on Wednesday, receiving and scanning documents dropped off by clients while they wait in their cars. It is anticipated that processing tax returns will take about a week.
- Job posting for Clerical Program Assistant – Very few applications received. Will be advertising in additional locations, including on Indeed.
- CARES Act Grant update – Woodbridge applied for a \$2500 non-competitive grant through the South Central Area on Aging. Application was submitted on 1/28/21 and the Town was approved very quickly. The Senior Center will be able to purchase some of the following items: sanitizer, a touch screen device to help staff keep track of individuals who come into the building for programming, touchless soap dispensers, and new tables for smaller cohorts. It is a reimbursement-type grant, and the town must submit receipts by March.

M.L. Sabshin made a motion to accept the January 2021 Human Services report. A. Holzman seconded. All approved.

VI. Youth Services

N. Pfund presented the January 2021 Youth Services reports, which will be on file in the Human Services office.

Programming update:

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- Gratitude Baskets project - Youth Services (YS) has received 10 baskets but extended the deadline until 2/26/21 for teams to donate items for school personnel or health care workers.
- Snow art competition - YS has invited Woodbridge and Bethany families to create snow sculptures and submit a photo by 2/26/21 to win a prize.
- Anti-defamation League programming - YS received approval from AMSB to schedule programs and workshops.
- After School Guided Study Program - Beecher Road School will be using the Enhancement Grant to sponsor virtual assistance for students in the program.
- Grant money has been approved for this year; this includes an Enhancement Grant.
- BOWDACC grant submitted the Local Prevention Council Grant for the current fiscal year for vaping education and prevention. Sign-ups on the Milford Prevention Council website are available for presentation by Tricia Dahl on Dangers of Vaping on 2/4 and for Alicia Farrell, Ph.D. - free parenting workshops during February.

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J. Labieniec made a motion to accept the January 2021 Youth Services report.

B. P. Madden seconded. All approved.

VII. The Woodbridge Center

K. Moriarty presented the January 2021 Woodbridge Center Report, which is on file in the Human Services office.

Programming update:

- COVID Vaccination Distribution - helped register eligible residents for Phase 1b vaccinations at the Center, at Woodbridge appointments in North Haven and at other locations.
- Drive-Thru Holiday Party - “Super Mask-car-ade New Year Party with Love” rescheduled to 2/4/21 due to snowstorm. This drive-thru event is sponsored by Coachman Square of Woodbridge and celebrates Super Bowl, Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year and Valentine’s Day. Guests will be offered hearty soup, a craft, chocolates and other treats.
- Mindfulness Class - This 6-week class will run on Wednesday afternoons via Zoom.
- YOPA class is a combination of Yoga, Pilates and stretching for all fitness levels. The class is being offered on Zoom Tuesday mornings from 9-10am beginning 2/9/21.

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- Get to the Point Lecture Series will take place via Zoom on 2/19/21. The first lecture, “An Update on Coronavirus”, will be presented by QVHD.

V. Livesay made a motion to accept the January 2021 Woodbridge Center report. J. Clarke-Lofters seconded. All approved.

VIII. Old Business/New Business

IX. Next meeting – March 1, 2021

B. P. Madden made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. J. Clarke-Lofters seconded. All approved.

Submitted by:

Human Services Commission

Accepted and approved this Day of , 2021.