

Woodbridge Human Services Commission

Minutes of the March 7, 2022

Via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Can be viewed: <https://youtu.be/yrfwqrkMfGQ>

Members Present: S. Davidson, Commission Chair, J. Clarke-Lofters, A. Holzman, B.P. Madden, J. Ciarleglio, L.F. Miller, C. Austin

Liaisons: D. Lober, BOS Liaison, D. Rowland, BOF Liaison

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

Absent: V. Livesay

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Commission Chair S. Davidson.

I. Public Comment

Although publicly noticed, no members of the public were in attendance.

II. Additions to the Agenda - none

III. Liaison Reports

- Board of Selectmen (BOS) – D. Lober gave a brief update. He discussed the Board of Selectmen’s Strategic Plan subcommittee with inclusion of upgrades to the Senior Center, the ARPA funds, and the Housing Opportunity survey.
- Board of Finance (BOF) – D. Rowland reported the Board of Finance had completed a preliminary review of the FY 23 Town Operating Budget looking for ways to bring the Mill Rate down and will make recommendations at their March 17 meeting.

IV. Minutes of the February 7, 2022 Meeting

B.P Madden made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting. J. Ciarleglio seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

V. Youth Services

N. Pfund presented the February 2022 Youth Services report, which is on file in the Human Services office.

- Programming
 - The Amity Middle School Student Council students coordinated donations and, with help from Youth Service (YS) staff, created more than 150 “We Care Kits” which the

YS Director brought to New Reach for the homeless population in New Haven. Another 20 kits were donated by Amity High School students and community members.

- An after-school program for Pi Day is scheduled for March 14. The students will make individual pizzas.
- The 6th grade party for Woodbridge and Bethany students is scheduled at the Middle School on April 1.
- The 8th grade party is scheduled at the High School in conjunction with Bethany and Orange on April 22.
- The end of the year 7th and 8th grade bash is scheduled for May 13.
- Other events planned for April are a Paint Party, Awareness Week, and Home Alone Class.
- First Selectman's Youth Award
 - First Selectman's Youth Award nominations are due by April 4, 2022.
- Staffing
 - YS is still looking for per diem staff members for both after-school and evening programming. N. Pfund pitched the need at the 6th Grade Parent Night and has created a flyer that is posted around Town buildings. Additionally, she hopes to attend a job fair at the JCC next week.

A. Holzman made a motion to accept the February 2022 Youth Services report. J. Clarke-Lofters seconded. The report was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

VI. The Woodbridge Center

K. Moriarty presented the February 2022 Woodbridge Center report, which is on file in the Human Services office.

- Pandemic Update:
 - In-person programming resumed mid-February with many people signing up for programming. Painting for Pleasure, pickleball, the Lifestyle Change Program, and the Armchair Adventure series were especially popular.
- Programming:
 - Several new people tried the free aerobics class during the month of February.
 - The Lifestyle Change Program is running smoothly with a good attendance. A 45-minute weekly fitness class is now part of the program.
 - The February drive-thru went well with 95 meals distributed. COVID Home test kits and masks were also distributed to those who needed them. The highlight of the drive-thru was the handmade Valentine's Day cards provided by Youth Services from many young people in the community.
 - The next drive-thru luncheon, sponsored by Coachman Square and the Holli Shanbrom Team – Coldwell Banker Real Estate, will be on St. Patrick's Day on March 17.
- Upcoming Programs/Events:
 - The Armchair Adventure Series will start with Yellowstone on March 11.

- The Town Earth Day Celebration will take place on April 23 this year with The Center hosting a tag sale in the Grove. Each space is \$10.00 with one 6-foot table included.
- Staffing Update:
 - The Targeted Strength Training instructor, Michele Tenney, resigned on February 23, effective immediately, to pursue another employment opportunity.
 - One of the transportation drivers had to take a leave of absence due to an unexpected death in their family.
 - Various avenues have been used to advertise for the transportation driver position. An interview is scheduled for this Thursday.
- Grants:
 - Award announcements have yet to be made for the ARPA grant, applied for in January, through the Agency on Aging, to replace car 57.
 - Notification was made that additional funds were available for the T'ai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance program. These funds were reapplied for, and announcement of awardees have yet to be made.

C. Austin made a motion to accept the February 2022 Woodbridge Center report.

J. Ciarleglio seconded. The report was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

VII. Human Services

J. Glicksman presented the February 2022 Human Services report, which is on file in the Human Services office.

- Budget update
 - J. Glicksman reported the Board of Selectmen reduced the FY23 Human Services (HS) Operating Budget by \$10,637. The Department has respectfully requested \$2,968 be returned. Specifics of the request may be viewed in the attached letter addressed to A. Genovese. He will share this letter with members of the Board of Finance.
- Programs: Mask/test kit distribution, Blood Drive, VITA
 - The Human Services (HS) Department is currently distributing masks/test kits to vulnerable Woodbridge residents and will expand this distribution to the whole town prior to the Easter/Passover holidays and the school vacation. This program will begin April 1 and last until supplies run out.
 - In partnership with the Nicole Donzello Foundation and The American Red Cross, Human Services held a Blood Drive this past Sunday. The event collected 40 pints. We'll repeat this event again this year.
 - The income tax assistance program (VITA) is just about at the ½-way mark. It seems to be running smoothly with the various options for completing tax returns on-line, drive through and in-person. Ellen is handling this program for the department.
- Current Mask Policy and Public Meetings
 - The mask policy in Town buildings was updated to only require masks be worn by unvaccinated persons. The Human Services Department will require masks for all Senior Center programming including exercise and taxes until such time as the Town has been 3-weeks in the yellow for positivity rate. Unfortunately, the Town was in the orange last week.

- Public meetings will resume after the Town has been in the yellow for positivity rate as well. Should the Town not succeed in having three weeks in the yellow prior to May 1st, in-person meetings will resume per the Governor in May.

J. Ciarleglio made a motion to hold the April HS Commission meeting via zoom format and the May HS Commission meeting in-person. L.F. Miller seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Senior Center Renovation – update: Due to a very large budget proposal by the architects, the renovation committee has met several times to considerably lower the cost for the project. The Building Maintenance Department will provide much of the demolition services, and we are working out a plan to submit all HVAC expenditures to the ARPA funds. This should reduce the cost estimate of the construction project. Additionally, we met with a structural engineer to discuss remediation of the ramp.

B.P. Madden made a motion to accept the February 2022 Human Services report. A. Holzman seconded. The report was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

VIII. Old Business/New Business

- **Next Meeting** – Monday, April 4, 2022

C. Austin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. J. Ciarleglio seconded. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Submitted by: Jeanette Glicksman

Human Services Commission

Accepted and approved this 4th Day of April, 2022.