

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE YOUTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M.,
84 SOUTH MAIN ST, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present: Phillip Belcher, Susan Pappas, Marlena Soble, Sherry Stekoff, Sally LaRusso, Margie Rogers and Kristina Veilleux

Staff/Guests: John Bajor (Minutes Clerk)
Dawn Cronin (Cheshire Junior Women)
Kevin Iglesias (Western CT Coalition)
Abigail Wood Maldonado (Western CT Coalition)
Patrick Latorre (YMCA Leaders Club)
Lisa Zaboroswski (Cheshire YMCA)
Sandy Hernandez (Cheshire Library)
Kevin Lardner (Cheshire High School)
Elizabeth Mayne (Parks and Recreation)
Michelle Piccorillo (Human Services)
Chelsea Kapitancek (Western CT Coalition)
Deb Manke (Town Council)
Nick Deschino (Cheshire YMCA)
Imina Raid (Youth Liaison)

Absent: Hilary Norcia (Chesprocott Health District not represented)
Stephanie Theroux (Coordinator of Senior Services)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Philip Belcher called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The roll was taken by John Bajor and the pledge was recited

2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was determined and all members and guests seated.

MOTION by Marlena Soble to approve a quorum was determined

SECONDED by Sally LaRusso, with motion passing unanimously by those present.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no corrections to the previous minutes

MOTION by Marlena Soble to approve the prior meeting minutes as is

SECONDED by Sally LaRusso, with motion passing unanimously by those present.

4. HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE:

- Winter program started
- New linoleum installed at Yellow House
- Fuel Assistance underway for emergency deliveries
- Partnering with Chesprocott Health District for Narcan training
- Approximately 20-25 individuals are unsheltered in Cheshire: “Hope for Neighbors” is a \$5000 grant by United Way
- Performing wellness checks on unsheltered and those in need
- Cheshire Food Drive has new Director (Michael Mangillo). Dinner on January 15th (8 food courses for \$150). Goal is to raise 50K this year.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER SHARING:

- A. **Abigail Wood Maldonado (Western CT Coalition)** reported the coalition consists of 43 non-profit towns. Leading programs in substance use abuse (Narcan training), gambling, mental awareness and prevention of suicide.
- B. **Dawn Cronin (Cheshire Junior Women)**: 150 sandwiches served through Vincent DePaul which included lighting the minora and Christmas tree. Cookies and cocoa were also served. Spelling Bee underway.
- C. **Elizabeth Mayne (Parks and Recreation)**: Starting Winter program with over 600 kids in middle school enrolled in basketball program for a positive environment. Getting ready to kick-off March/April events.
- D. **Sandy Hernandez (Cheshire Library)**: December training was held for members. February is “Love Library” month including Black History and “Take Your Child to the Library”. On February 19, will have a lecture on Functional Medicine. Lastly, “No More Jane Doe” which is support for sexual abuse to identify grooming and a self-defense workshop. Important this time of year as Junior/Senior Prom upcoming.
- E. **Nick Deschino and Lisa Zaborowski (Cheshire YMCA)**: Pre-school registration is now open. Planning February Camp and personal training memberships.
- F. **Cheshire Housing Authority**: Opening of housing applications. There is currently a monthly list of housing openings. Director is Ann Belcher.

G. Senior Services (email from Stephanie Theroux): Have collaborated with Fire Marshal's office, Chesprocott, and the Red Cross to present Steps to Safety designed to give seniors fire safety knowledge and the prevention of falls. Scheduled for Friday, January 16th at 10 AM

Continue to partner with Police Department for Police Perspectives. This month's meeting is "Meet the Chief" and prescription drug drop off will also be provided on January 8th at 1 PM

Our AARP Income Tax Program begins this month taking requests on Tuesday January 20th with appointments beginning on Monday, February 2nd.

Continuing partnership with American Red Cross with Blood Drive scheduled for Thursday, March 12th from 1-6 PM

The next AARP Age-Friendly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21st at 9 AM

H. MENTAL HEALTH MAILER:

A mailer was sent after the election with calendar and resources for support. Continuing on this, a brainstorming activity was performed in small breakout groups to support community well-being and notes collected. Idea is connection with self and others, disconnect with social media and screen time, know limits and boundaries and that you are not alone.

Ideas on what to include in future mailings (i.e. fridge magnet), picture of Roaring Brook Falls, how to best use technology to reach most people.

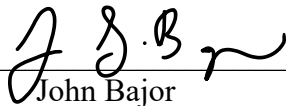
I. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Marlena Soble to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 PM

SECONDED by Sally LaRusso with motion passing unanimously by those present.

Next meeting will be on March 4th

Attest:



John Bajor