

**Town of Plymouth**  
**80 Main Street**  
**Terryville, Connecticut 06786**

**Human Services Commission**  
**Telephone: (860)585-4001**  
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Human Services Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2021

**I. Call to Order:** Vice-Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin called the November 16, 2021, Human Services Commission Virtual Zoom Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**II. Attendance:** Vice-Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin, Commissioner Lee Ulinskas, Commissioner Helena Schwalm, Commissioner Donna Dognin and Alternate Commissioner Fred Schwalm. Also in attendance: Ann Marie Rheault, Small Wonders Committee Member, Carrie Tedd from HRA, Heather Stamp, HRA intern and Councilwoman Roxanne McCann.

Excused absence: Commissioner Karen Saccu

**III. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Vice-Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Invocation:**

Commissioner Donna Dognin gave the invocation.

**V. Public Input:**

Ann Marie Rheault stated she is speaking as a volunteer. She went over the financials for the Small Wonders program.

The Committee is working on getting flyers out and trees at businesses. Carrie Tedd submits the applications to the Committee.

**VI. Acceptance of Minutes:**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Lee Ulinskas, seconded by Commissioner Helena Schwalm to accept the meeting minutes of October 19, 2021. This motion was approved unanimously.*

**VII. Communications/Correspondence (If Needed):** None

**VIII. Human Services Report:**

Carrie Tedd stated she has an intern, Heather Stamp from Post University. Heather is graduating in December with a Bachelors in Human Services. She works 15 hours per week -twice a week to complete her hours for the program.

Since COVID, Carrie Tedd stated she is very busy. She is getting referrals from Larry at the Food Pantry.

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TOWN OF PLYMOUTH  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
Cathy Beaudoin

There is funding for renters but not for people with mortgages.

She is applying for federal energy assistance. When benefits exhaust, then she gets money from the Plymouth Fuel Fund/Rotary Club Fuel Fund. There is a big need as oil costs are doubled from last year.

The Main Street Community Foundation donated two checks - \$600.00 and \$1000.00.

Human Services funding has decreased since last year. Carrie Tedd is looking at other ways to increase yearly funding to assist residents.

Carrie Tedd is in the process of writing two mini grants to assist an elderly man residing at Gosinski Park to complete a car repair.

A discussion took place about how many seniors the town has.

Carrie Tedd does not know how many seniors. HRA would have to provide that information. It would be a difficult report to run.

A discussion took place about the Salvation Army gift cards.

**IX. Old Business:** None

**X. New Business:**

**a. Elections**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Helena Schwalm, seconded by Commissioner Lee Ulinskas to extend the election of officers to the January 2022 meeting. This motion was approved unanimously.*

**a. Christmas Senior Gift Bags**

Commissioner Donna Dognin stated she reached out to the schools and Gretchen from the library to get some hand written holiday cards.

Below are the totals for the seniors:

Eli Terry Retirement Home 33

Gosinski Park 55

Total 88

The following is a breakdown of funds that was budgeted for the senior gift bags:

\$1200.00

- \$168.46 for zip lock containers.

\$1031.54 balance

+\$1000.00 grant received from Thomaston Savings Bank

\$2031.54 total

Councilman Dan Gentile is donating his councilman pay of \$1000.00 per Councilwoman Roxanne McCann.

If gift cards are bought in bulk, IGA offers a 5% discount.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Helena Schwalm, seconded by Commissioner Lee Ulinskas to give each resident at Eli Terry Retirement Home and Gosinski Park a \$30 gift certificate from IGA and that is their Christmas gift from the Human Services Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.*

**XI. Chairman's Comments:**

Vice-Chairwoman Cathy Beaudoin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and giving information. She is very appreciative to Ann Marie Rheault and Carrie Tedd for all of their work.

**XII. Council Liaison's Comments:**

Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she likes the idea of the gift cards. She feels a good portion of the senior population is being missed. She agrees with looking at outreach next year to make sure they are being taken care of and getting the word out. Can a flyer be left at the pharmacies?

Carrie Tedd replied that she gets a lot of referrals from various people and businesses and that they are in the Plymouth Connection.

**XIII. Adjournment:**

*There being no further business of the Human Services Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Helena Schwalm, seconded by Commissioner Donna Dognin to adjourn. This motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Schnaars  
Recording Secretary