



Department of Human Services

Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
Westportct.gov
humansrv@westportct.gov
Telephone (203) 341-1050

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, April 13, 2021

PENDING APPROVAL AT OCTOBER 2021 MEETING

Minutes Approved from January 2021

DHS facility and program updates

- Town Hall, Toquet Hall, and WCSA are still closed to the public but DHS continues to offer remote services including application, financial, and food assistance. Clinical staff is meeting with clients outdoors as needed.
- **MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – DHS to host several online events are offered and can be found at www.westporttogether.org**
- Additional updates were emailed to Commissioners of April 8th. Synopsis below:

Elaine reminded Commissioners of upcoming MEETINGS OF INTEREST:

APRIL 8TH, 2021

- 8 AM - [TEAM WESTPORT MEETING](#)
- 6 PM - [RTM TRANSIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING](#)
- 6 PM - [PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING](#)

A TEXT AMENDMENT ON ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS WILL BE DISCUSSED.

Text Amendment #791: Appl. #PZ-21-00211 submitted by the Planning and Zoning Commission to modify Section 11-2.4, Permitted Accessory Building, Structures and Uses, to allow Accessory Dwelling Units in detached structures with associated zoning standards, Section 11-2.4.12A, Accessory Apartment, to increase allowable floor area and to remove requirement for Annual Certification. Language is proposed to be removed limiting any accessory building or structure to 300 SF in size, one-story in height, or limited to two water use fixtures. A copy of the text amendment is available on-line at www.westportct.gov, is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, is on file in the Planning and Zoning Office, and is attached to this notice (no deadlines for action for Commission-authored amendment). Applicant's presentation time: 10 minutes.

APRIL 13TH, 2021

- 9 AM - HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING (TBA)
- 9 AM - SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING (TBA)
- 7:30 PM - RTM HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS DHS AND WWHD FY 21-22 BUDGET REQUESTS

APRIL 15TH, 2021

- 9 AM - COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES APRIL MEETING
- 7:15 PM - WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING

Commission Planning

- Continued discussion of Commission job description/roles & responsibilities
- Elaine shared her top Areas of focus for the future, asking for Commissioners to attend, report and represent the commission in various town meetings. The intersection of many issues and departments exist through DHS including: Housing, Diversity – TEAM Westport, Mental Health and Substance Abuse - Westport Prevention Coalition, Transportation & other identified needs

To stay informed on Human Services programs and services, please consider following us on social media and sign up to receive email updates:

- [The Town of Westport Department of Human Services](#)
- [Westport Center for Senior Activities](#)
- [Westport Together](#)

Commission Engagement Opportunities:

- **There are several vacancies on the Human Services, Senior Services, and Youth Commissions.** Please help us to bring new ideas to DHS by sharing the opportunity with others.
- **Attend other Commission meetings** to learn about their projects.
- **Become a volunteer CHOICES Counselor, Connecticut's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).** Human Services facilitates appointments for residents seeking assistance in determining the best Medicare Savings Program for their needs. The next training is in April. See attachment for details.
- **Affordable Housing Subcommittee** - help our commissions to remain informed on housing initiatives in Town
- **TEAM Westport** - represent the Human Services Commissions by attending meetings and bringing information back to the group.
- **Domestic Violence Task Force** - meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month
- **[Westport Prevention Coalition](#)** - working to raise awareness about substance abuse and mental health among all ages. Please join the meetings to learn more.
- **Become a Mentor** - volunteer to meet weekly with a child to offer support and guidance to a young person.
- **Volunteer for the Westport Center for Senior Activities Home Delivered Meal Program**
- **Westport's "Hello, Neighbor" Program is Expanding to Include Contactless Grocery Assistance for Seniors!** For more information on the Hello Neighbor Program, please click [here](#).
- **Donate to Human Services via our WeCare Westport portal** to support youth, seniors, and family financial assistance programs.