

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026
Senior Center**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Samantha Charette, Matthew Cox, Eileen Fedorowich, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, John Kelleher, Donna Richardson, Joan Sizer

Absent: Marilyn Gaskell, Annette Ramsdell

Matthew introduced and welcomed Samantha Charette, our new Director of Recreation and Leisure. Samantha gave a brief bio of her previous work experience. All members introduced themselves.

Call to order at 1:01 p.m. by chairperson Matthew.

Approval of Minutes of May 12: Pat moved and John seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

We talked about appointing a new member of the committee to replace Tina Toohey. Matthew asked committee members to suggest new members. He will create a job description and we will start the search in September.

There was a long discussion about the implications of the negative results of the recent town budget referendum. Several people expressed regrets that we will lose Donna Richardson, Senior Center Supervisor and Annette Ramsdell, Social and Senior Services Specialist, as a result of budget cuts. Appreciation was expressed for the good work they both have done for the people of Somers. There will be an article about the cuts in the Senior Center newsletter and in the Woodcrest newsletter. Samantha will be spending more time at the Senior Center. The Senior Center will be closed on Fridays.

The group discussed concerns about communication relating to the budget. Matthew will invite First Selectman Tim Keeney to come to a future meeting of the Advisory Committee.

Eileen suggested that the committee meet during July and August. Usually, we do not meet during those months. Matthew will update the meeting schedule.

- **See attached Senior Center Report submitted by Donna Richardson and the Human Services Report submitted by Annette Ramsdell.**

Adjournment: With no further business, Phyllis moved, and Pat seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m. There was no discussion and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted
Ailene Henry, Secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

Somers Senior Advisory Meeting Tuesday, June 09, 2026, at 1:00 PM
Somers Human Services Report

Focus Areas

- Assisted residents with seasonal benefit transitions, including Renters Rebate, Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Medicare, and benefit renewals.
- Helped older adults navigate changes to digital nutrition benefit systems.
- Provided budgeting, utility assistance information, and referrals to additional financial resources.
- Continued advocacy and support for vulnerable seniors, including care coordination, safety concerns, and connections to community services.

Renters Rebate

- 70+ applications completed
- Nearly \$30,000 secured for residents

Meals on Wheels and Champ's referrals

- 114 meals and referrals provided

Community Outreach

- 175 new clients served year-to-date
- 15 new families enrolled in May
- Strong community referrals continue to drive program growth

Service Activity (273 Total Contacts)

- ❖ *Case Management/Senior Case Management/Financial Counseling: 35 households with 71 services provided.*
- ❖ *Application Assistance Including CEAP, FM, RR: 82*
- ❖ *Emergency Assistance: 3*
- ❖ *CHOICES/MSP Appointments: 3*
- ❖ *Walk-ins and Phone Calls: Ongoing*

Upcoming Priorities

- Continue Renters Rebate assistance through September.
- Support Farmers Market Nutrition Program enrollment.
- Maintain outreach and advocacy for vulnerable seniors.
- Increase awareness of available Human Services programs and resources.

Submitted by:

Annette Ramsdell
Social and Senior Services Specialist

Senior Advisory Meeting – Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 1:00pm

Senior Center Updates

- Welcome Samantha Charette
- Waitlist for lunches (Home Helpers)
- Sr. Center will close on Fridays (no start date as of yet)

Programs/Activities

- Wed, 7/1 - Independence Day & 250th Anniversary of our nation celebration w/ Tom Callinan-Ct. 1st Official State Troubadour w/ BLT's, chips, pickles, & Ice Cream sandwiches
- Tues, 7/7 – Movie Time – “Grease”
- Wed, 7/8 – 5-4-3-2-1 Healthy grocery shopping class w/Hannah
- Fri, 7/10 – Cousins Lobster Truck at Sr. Center from 11am-2pm
- Mon, 7/13 – Chair massages with Casey by appt. only
- Tues, 7/14 – Lunch Bunch – Log Cabin “The History of Rock N’ Roll
- Wed, 7/15 – Footcare by appt. only
- Thurs, 7/16 – Hooked on books book club
- Fri, 7/24 – Sock Hop w/ Brian Chicoine
- Wed, 7/29 – Painting class with Sandy

Trips

- Friendship Tours – Tuesday, October 13th – The Turkey Train Winnepesaukee Railroad - \$192
- Friendship Tours – Thursday, December 10th - Fireplace Feast - Salem Cross Inn - \$166

Respectfully submitted, Donna Richardson, Senior Center Supervisor