

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
Special Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026
Senior Center**

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

Absent: Marilyn Gaskell, Joan Sizer

Call to order at 1:03 p.m. by chairperson Matthew.

Approval of Minutes of June 9: Phyllis moved and Pat seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Matthew reported on changes in Human Services as a result of recent budget cuts. Matthew will continue short term case management, information and referral, emergency financial assistance, some crisis intervention, and application assistance for Renters' Rebate, CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), Generation Power, and the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. There will be no long-term case management. Volunteers may be used to assist with the applications for energy assistance. North Central Area Agency on Aging will provide help and counselling for Medicare and Medicaid applications. The town web site will be updated to provide links for Human Services-related assistance. In September, Matthew will start working on the Human Services budget for next fiscal year.

- **See attached information presented by Samantha about budget impacts on the Senior Center and Dial-a-Ride.**
As well, she reported that Donna Richardson's hours will now be part time and the hours of other Senior Center employees will be reduced. Plans for an expansion of the Senior Center are on hold with the intention to revisit this in the future.

Donna reported that maintenance of the town buses is up to date, but trips are limited to local places.

There was a discussion, initiated by Phyllis, about holding a fund-raising event like a tag sale. There were several suggestions but no conclusions.

Members 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.

Adjournment: With no further business, Eileen moved, and Pat seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Ailene Henry, Secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.