

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
January 12, 2021
Zoom**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Steve Getman, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Allison Maynard, Carol Sarrantonio, Joan Sizer, Tina Toohey

Absent: Jillian Connors

- I. **Call to order** at 1:36 pm by chairperson Allison Maynard.
- II. **Approval of 12/08/20 Minutes:** Carol moved and Pat seconded the motion that the minutes of the 12/08/20 meeting be approved as written.
- III. **Audience:** Christina Hurdle-Cenac (Social Services), Maureen Parsell (Recreation Director)
- IV. **Correspondence:** None
- V. **Old Business:** None
- VI. **New Business:**

A. New Hire – Recreation Director Allison introduced and welcomed Maureen Parsell, Town of Somers new Recreation Director. Maureen has already met with Allison and Jillian and hopes to expand town recreation programs. Ailene asked about pickleball.

B. Social Services Update:

MOW: We will begin getting meals from CRT starting Feb. 15. We now have 14 clients and we will add a few more Somers residents that are now getting CRT meals from the Enfield program. We cannot drop below 10 clients with the CRT program. Soon Allison and Christina will send out the new background check paperwork to volunteers. Background checks should be done annually.

Covid Testing: The weekly covid testing at the DPW site has been going well with about 50 clients per week. When vaccine becomes readily available this will probably switch over to a vaccine site. The Moderna vaccine will be used. There were about 130 positive tests in December. Seniors looking for vaccine should not call their PCP.

Holiday Programs: Holiday programs went well. 37 holiday baskets were delivered to homebound seniors. The “Toy Shop” program where parents could shop for toys and gift cards was successful. Allison is thinking of expanding these programs and other options for next year.

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving: The community needs assessment survey will be sent out soon to get ideas about how to use the \$100,000 that Somers has been allocated.

New Advisory Committee member: Bev Guimond has been nominated by the Senior Club and approved by the Selectmen to be our new member. She will join at our next meeting.

C. Senior Center Update:

Dial-a-Ride continues to be able to meet needs. Priority is for employment and medical transport. Seeking a per diem driver.

A monthly newsletter will continue.

There will be a routine robocall from the Senior Center to touch base with seniors.

On Feb. 19 a new on-line tech support group will begin.

Jillian has started a walking program.

AARP will again provide free income tax assistance with minimal contact.

Ailene asked if anyone would like to take over the committee secretary position.

VII. Committee Updates:

The Senior Club will do a drive through lunch once a month.

We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm. Next meeting Feb. 9.

Allison sent out the 2021 schedule to members. We will continue by Zoom. Maybe in the Spring we can meet in person outside.

VIII. Adjournment: 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.