

**Town of Somers  
Advisory Committee for Seniors  
May 11, 2021**

**Present:** Pat Bachetti, Jillian Connors, Steve Getman, Bev Guimond, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Allison Maynard, Tina Toohey

**Absent:** Carol Sarrantonio, Joan Sizer

**I. Call to order** at 1:30 pm by chairperson Allison Maynard.

**II. Approval of 3/9/21 Minutes:** Two corrections – Christina Hurdle and spelling of Jillian. Tina moved and Pat seconded the motion that the minutes be accepted as amended.

**III. Audience:** Christina Hurdle (Social Services)

**IV. Correspondence:** None

**V. Old Business: A. Plaque for Home Town Kitchen.** Pat, Joan and Ailene presented a suggested wording for the plaque. Allison and Christina will work on pricing and payment. A suggestion was made that the committee go for lunch at the Hometown Kitchen and present the plaque at that time. Pat suggested that Kathy Birkenshaw, previous owner, be also invited. Allison will work on coordinating this.

**VI. New Business:**

**Social Services Update:** Several covid vaccine clinics have been provided for town residents. MOW is going well with CRT providing meals. More volunteer drivers are needed.

Renter's rebate program will be provided through Social Services.

There has been an after school program and a program for girls (Girls on the Run)

Allison continues with mental health counselling.

There will be an ice cream social, partnering with the Somers Women's Club.

The Hartford Foundation grant program will open for applications on June 1. Applications should be returned by July 15 and the money will be distributed by October 1.

**Senior Center Update:** There will be a Senior Health and Fitness Day at Field Road park with many partners.

Bay Path Occupational Therapy program is going well. This is a 5 year contract with students providing programming during the school year.

John, a Dial a Ride driver is retiring.

Hiring is underway for a Senior Center Program Coordinator.

Friendship Tours will resume trips in late summer or fall.

Hoping to open up Senior Center for larger groups in the fall. Talked about the importance of getting together for social interaction.

Difficult to reach everyone with the newsletter since it is too expensive to mail and many seniors don't use internet. Steve suggested having copies of the newsletter available at the transfer station. Ailene asked if we could post weekly articles in the JI and Courant Thursday community section as several other Senior Centers do.

Jillian asked if anyone had ideas for new programs. Briefly talked about doing a survey.

**VII. Committee Updates:**

The Senior Club continues to provide a grab and go lunch once a month. Discussed having the meals outside in nice weather.

Pat continues to send cards to MOW clients.

**VIII. Adjournment:** 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry acting secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.