

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2024**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Matthew Cox, Eileen Fedorowich, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Christina Hurdle, John Kelleher, Maureen Parsell, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey

Absent: Marilyn Gaskell, Joan Sizer

Call to order at 1:00 p.m. by chairperson Matthew Cox.

Approval of minutes of last meeting 01 09 24: Approved as written –Tina(m) Pat (s)

Correspondence: none

Old Business: Angel Fund Update: Matthew reported that \$315,000 from 1500 donors has been collected for the victims of the Somersville fire. Thank you notes will go out next week. Social Services and other town personnel are helping to manage the money. “Where Angels Play Foundation” from Jersey Mike’s subs may be involved with building a playground or renovating an existing playground in memory of the children who were lost.

New Business:

Senior Center Update: Donna reported on upcoming programs

March 13: Somers Police Dep’t presenting an awareness program.

March 15: St. Patrick’s Day program. Large crowd. Working on additional parking.

April 10: Hat fascinator class with Mary Ellen

April 22: Volunteer appreciation Day. Ailene suggested that, to save cost, participants do not need a gift.

June 12: BBQ with entertainment. Tina has donated an ice cream truck

Working on updating the Dial-a-Ride handbook.

Working on a welcome packet to be given to new members.

There is now a charge for bus trips (not Dial-a Ride) and some special events that the budget doesn’t cover. Tina stated that information about this kind of change should be better advertised and asked if we could start a fund to help those who can’t afford increased costs. Discussion on this.

Working on having CRT provide a noon meal at the Senior Center once or twice a week. Christina said that the kitchen might need to be updated to allow this. Donna will check.

Maureen reported that since July 1 there have been 69 new Senior Center members, 346 active members.

The town received \$28,000 from the state for the Senior Center, covid related. Maureen asked for ideas on how best to spend the money – limited time frame to spend it. Maybe new kitchen appliances.

Maureen will attend a meeting about the Community Center on March 14. She stated that many Senior Centers have a group “Friends of the Senior Center” who work on fund raising and promotion.

Social Services: presented by Christina. MOW: 12 clients. Ailene asked if clients could be offered the large house numbers provided by the fire dep’t. This would help MOW volunteers as well as emergency personnel. Christina asked if there was accessibility help for social services clients.

There is more money available for both Operation Fuel and state energy assistance.

Cristina met with a rep from Eversource on how to manage monthly electric bills. She is willing to do a program at the Senior Center.

Adjournment: 2:07 p.m. Pat moved; Maureen seconded

Next meeting: April 9, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Senior Center

Respectfully submitted:

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting