

**Town of Somers  
Advisory Committee for Seniors  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 14, 2025**

**Present:** Pat Bachetti, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, John Kelleher, Maureen Parsell, Annette Ramsdell, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey, Eileen Fedorowich, and Matthew Cox

**Absent:** Marilyn Gaskill and Joan Sizer

**Call to order** at 1:07 p.m. by chairperson Matthew Cox.

**Approval of minutes of November 14, 2024:** Tina moved, and Phyllis seconded the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

**Old Business:** Matthew thanked Ailene for her service as secretary over the past several years and he reported that Marilyn Gaskill had volunteered to take on the role as secretary beginning next month. Matthew agreed to take minutes for the current meeting.

**New Business:**

**Senior Center Update: Donna**

Donna reported that the kitchen renovation was in full swing and that the space had been largely gutted with reconstruction beginning soon. Activities at the Center for February had been scaled back to accommodate the reconstruction and to avoid interruptions. The next big event will not be until Cinco de Mayo. She announced that Maryellen Matarazzo would be leaving her position with January 31 being her last day. She reported that the vacancy had been posted and interested candidates had already applied. She agreed to keep the group updated as the hiring process commences. Donna also reported that the first annual New Year's Eve celebration was a tremendous success, with nearly 60 residents in attendance who enjoyed music, dancing, friendship, and good food. Last, Donna reported that she was working to complete a template for the new Senior Center packet of information, calendars, flyers, and other helpful information for new members. Maureen reported that average daily attendance at the Senior Center continues to climb, currently 41 members on average with Tuesdays and Fridays being the busiest, with special events and fitness options being the most popular.

**Social and Senior Services Update:**

Annette reported that it had been a very busy season for Access energy assistance applications, with well over 100 being completed. She also reported that Operation Fuel applications would soon be accepted, and she planned to complete training on January 14. She also reported that she would complete CHOICES Medicare training this coming spring. She said that the census of Meals on Wheels clients was low (currently 6) due to budget cuts at CRT and the waiting list was currently upwards of 3 months. To improve flexibility of Somers' program, she reported that other options were being studied. Last, she reported that an informational insert detailing programs and assistance available through Human Services would be included with Somers' delinquent property tax bills in February.

**Adjournment:** Phyllis moved, and Marilyn seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:10pm. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

**Next meeting:** February 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Senior Center

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Cox  
Chair