

**Town of Somers  
Advisory Committee for Seniors  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 11, 2025**

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

**Absent:** Marilyn Gaskill and Tina Toohey

**Call to order** at 1:05 p.m. by chairperson Matthew Cox.

**Approval of minutes of January 14, 2024:** Phyllis moved, and Pat seconded the motion that the minutes be approved with changes suggested by Donna.

Corrections/changes to minutes: the next big event at the senior center will be on, "March 14, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day" (rather than Cinco de Mayo); the New Year's Eve celebration was attended by "135 residents of Somers and surrounding towns" (rather than 60); and that, "Donna and Pam Caso worked together to assemble the template Senior Center Welcome Packet."

Joan Sizer abstained from voting as she did not attend the last meeting. The motion carried with affirmative votes from other members present.

**Old Business:** Matthew reported that Marilyn will be unable to be present to take minutes at meetings of the Advisory Committee as originally proposed and he agreed to take notes for this session. He will message the full membership again to ask for a volunteer for this important task.

**New Business:**

**Senior Center Update: Donna**

- Welcome Packet – we added the Senior Center Mission Statement and finalized the packet to be provided to new members.
- Kitchen renovations are running on time and should be completed by the end of February.
- The part-time Program Coordinator Position - We have had two interviews so far and two more next week.
- AARP Tax Aide program is full, and we have people on a wait list.
- New Qigong Instructor - Linda Hoyt-Russell will host a free class on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Kibbe Fuller. She will start teaching on Thursdays, 9-9:45am starting on March 6<sup>th</sup> held outside at Senior Center or inside at Kibbe Fuller.
- There is a new payment process for some health and wellness classes at the Senior Center: To streamline the data and tracking process, punch cards will be discontinued after the existing punch cards are completed for Fit and Fun and Stretching with Keely. We will switch to a 10-week series class starting in March for Fit and Fun, Stretching with Keely, and Qigong. The cost will be \$40/10 weeks. If you miss a class during a series, there are no refunds, and it does not carry over to the next series unless the instructor cancels a class.

**Programs:**

- Six Friendship Tour Trips are available for sign up.
- Grief Support with Karla Vince from Visiting Nurses will be back on Mondays, 10-11am starting on March 3rd for a 6-week session.
- AARP Driver Safety Course is set for Wednesday, April 23rd, 9am-1pm. \$20/AARP member or \$25/non-member.

- Donna is working with Somers police to try and set date for March for National Fraud Awareness Month
- St. Patrick's Day Luncheon is Friday, March 14, 11am-1pm with Sarah the Fiddler and Reins Deli corned beef sandwiches. \$10/pp, Limited space
- Richard Badowski/Harmonica Entertainer will be here Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am for our Humor Luncheon for National Humor Month
- Jose Paulo/Keyboard Singer will be here Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am to celebrate with a Cinco De Mayo Luncheon

**Social and Senior Services Update: Annette**

- Access Agency is still accepting applications for energy assistance.
- Operation Fuel applications have begun.
- The brunch for Meals on Wheels volunteers last month was well attended and was a good opportunity for volunteers to meet and enjoy each other's company.
- The client census for Meals on Wheels has decreased to four. There is a need to better understand Somers' homebound population and whether there is a verifiable need for this meal service.
- A client welcome packet is in the works to ensure that all clients of Human Services have basic information about programs and services as they seek assistance.
- Shared Allied Transportation pamphlet

**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:** March 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Senior Center

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Cox  
Chair