

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Eileen Fedorowich, Marilyn Gaskell, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, John Kelleher, Maureen Parsell, Annette Ramsdell, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey

Absent: Matthew Cox, Joan Sizer

Call to order at 1:04 p.m. by chairperson Donna Richardson, substituting for Matthew Cox.

Approval of Minutes of October 14: John moved and Pat seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

New Business:

See attached Senior Center Report presented by Donna Richardson and the Human Services Report presented by Annette Ramsdell.

Additionally, Donna shared the following:

- Kibbe Fuller gym will be unavailable for Senior Center activities in December since it is used for toy distribution by Human Services.
- She made us aware of a scam that asks for money for Senior Centers and distributed information about this.
- Seniors can go to activities in other towns.

Tina pointed out that donations can be made to the Somers Emergency Fund, the Human Services toy program and the summer camp for children program.

Annette, in addition, shared:

- She receives many phone calls requesting help and makes an effort to return calls within 24 to 48 hours.
- If she is unable to help directly she makes referrals to other appropriate agencies.
- The teen center at the Somers Library is working well.

Maureen reported on the committee that is planning for the expansion of the Senior Center. These plans will come up for a referendum in November 2026.

Phyllis commended Matthew for being chosen for the Adolph P. Anderson Quality Employees Award 2025.

Adjournment: With no further business, Tina moved, and Marilyn seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m. There was no discussion and the motion was carried.

There will be no meeting in December. Next meeting will be Tuesday January 13, 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry, Secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

Advisory Committee meetings – Somers

November 18th 1:00PM – Somers Senior Center

Meetings Attended or Hosted

- Bi-Weekly Team and One-on-One Meetings with Director
- Advisory Committee meetings – Somers
- Successful attendance for *Seniorhood Resource Fair* on October 25 in Vernon – nice turn out for Somers Residents
- Aging CT/Summit hosted at Aqua Turf Club - 556 Mulberry St, Plantsville, CT
- Navigating Medicare Open Enrollment: Insights for Patients & Caregivers-Webinar
- CHOICES Open Enrollment Update Training 2026
- DSS Webinar – ALL Benefits Challenge
- United Way Rapid Response Fund Webinar

Upcoming Priorities - NOVEMBER

- Continue enhancing access to Senior and Social Services programs.
- Prioritize follow-up calls to ensure client progress and timely interventions.
- Advisory Committee meetings – Somers
- Medicare Open Enrollment - October 15th through Dec 7th
- CEAP (Access)
- Thanksgiving – CHAMPS
- Somers Veteran Coffeehouse November 15th

Service Inquiries – Approximate Breakdown

- General Inquiries and inbound calls about Services / Questions: 197
- Case Management/Senior Case Management/Follow-Ups/Financial Counseling: 53
- Meals on Wheels Recipients and Referrals: - 7 – food pantry - 3
- Applications (SNAP, HUSKY, QMB, MSP): 5
- Counseling referrals– 1 – Substance Abuse Referral - 1
- Emergency – Rent – 1 – Other – 4 – Utilities – heat - 3
- CHOICES Appointments - 13

Example 1:

Provided support to approximately forty-two clients with their CEAP applications and Eversource discount programs, managing between four to seven appointments per day. Also assisted clients with Medicare-related needs as part of ongoing case support.

Example 2:

Assisted both in-town and out-of-town clients in navigating Medicare enrollment for the first time. Addressed individual questions, explained plan options, and guided them through the full enrollment process. Eight enrollments were completed during the month of October along with multiple plan reviews.

Example 3:

Provided emotional support and referral services to a client coping with the loss of a loved one. The death of the children's father, discovered by the spouse and youngest child, resulted in PTSD and other mental and physical health challenges. Coordinated a referral for grief counseling and ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Ramsdell, Social and Senior Services Specialist

Senior Advisory Meeting – Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 1:00pm

Senior Center Report

- No Tap Dancing in the month of December
 - Tues, 12/2 – Jimmy Cransak will be back with his violin & talent to start the Holiday month off!
 - Wed, 12/3 – Holiday stocking door craft w/Darlene
 - Sat, 12/6 – Holiday Festival
 - Tues, 12/9 – Somers High School Carolers with a Baked Potato Bar Luncheon
 - Mon, 12/15 – 4pm-5pm – Local Girl Scout troop - 5th graders are going to be working on their "Social Butterfly" badge and need to work on their communication skills and practice table manners.
 - Fri, 12/19 – Breakfast w/Mr. & Mrs. Clause & Music w/The Valley Carolers
 - Wed, 12/31 – New Years Eve Bash at Joannas w/DJ Marc (Snow Date – 1/2/26) is SOLD OUT! 110 people have signed up!
- Fraud Alert: National "Future of Social Security" Ballot – Documents attached

Respectfully submitted,

**Donna Richardson
Senior Center Supervisor**