

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
November 10, 2020**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Jillian Connors (Zoom), Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Allison Maynard, Carol Sarrantonio, Joan Sizer, Tina Toohey

Absent: Steve Getman,

1. **Call to order** at 1:30 pm by chairperson Allison Maynard.
2. **Approval of 10/13/20 Minutes:** Tina moved and Phyllis seconded the motion that the minutes of the 10/13/20 meeting be approved as written.
3. **Audience:** Bud Knorr (First Selectman), Melinda Burnham (Dial-A-Ride coordinator) (Zoom), Christina Hurdle-Cenac (Social Services)
4. **Correspondence:** None
5. **Old Business:** None
6. **New Business:**

A. Social Services Update:

New Mental Health Services Program: Allison reported that the Town of Stafford and the Town of Somers have signed an MOV that formalizes a partnership where Allison will begin offering mental health services for Somers residents age 12 and up, out of their clinic (Stafford Family Services) for 8 to 10 hours per week. She will see only Somers residents. If a client is uninsured or underinsured they will be able to receive services at no cost to them.

MOW: Allison and Christina met with the owner of the Hometown Kitchen Restaurant. The restaurant cannot accommodate low sodium meals, cannot go back to a 6 days a week schedule and want to increase the cost of meals to \$5 for a cold meal and \$6 for a hot meal. CRT now has funding for Somers and would deliver to Somers 5 times a week. The cost of a meal would be \$3 and would be subsidized if a client is unable to pay. The Somers MOW fund would no longer be needed. Allison listed the pros and cons of each program. Consensus of the committee was to go with CRT. Allison may ask Hometown Kitchen if they would provide a Saturday meal. Allison will be meeting this week with CRT with a possible Dec. 1 start.

Season of Giving: The annual fund raiser for social services will be held again this year. A mailer will be sent out to all Somers residents.

Pat asked if we would be participating in the Salvation Army program this year. We will not, mainly because of covid concerns.

B. Senior Center Update:

Jillian is pleased with the activity level at the Senior Center. All programs except Qigong are inside now with numbers limited, mask wearing, social distancing and extra cleaning.

Dial-a-Ride continues to be able to meet needs. Priority is for employment and medical transport. Two people at a time and extra cleaning. Door-to-door service is available on a case by case basis. There has not been a request for this. Nutmeg Senior Rides is another transportation option. Social Services can help with the cost of this if necessary.

Allison reported that Bev Guimond will probably be the new Somers Senior Club representative on the Advisory Committee.

All committee members will receive a letter from the Town Clerk about annual reappointment to the Committee.

We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm.

7. **Outreach:** Pat continues to send greeting cards to MOW clients. Pat thanked Christina for her help.
8. **Adjournment:** 2:55 p.m. moved by Tina, seconded by Carol.

Next meeting Dec. 8, 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.