

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
January 10, 2023**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Steve Getman, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Allison Maynard, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey

Absent: Bev Guimond, Joan Sizer

1. **Call to order** at 1:30 p.m. by chairperson Allison Maynard.
2. **Approval of 11/08/22 Minutes:** Tina moved and Phyllis seconded the motion that the minutes of the 11/08/22 meeting be approved as written.
3. **Audience:** Marilyn Gaskell, Christina Hurdle, Maureen Parsell, Taylor Setzler
Allison Introduced and welcomed Taylor Setzler, our new Town of Somers substance use prevention employee.
4. **Correspondence:** none
5. **Old Business:** none
6. **New Business:**
 - A. **Advisory Openings:** Carol Sarrantonio has officially resigned as the Advisory Committee representative from Woodcrest. Eileen Fedorovich has sent a letter expressing interest in being on the committee. Steve nominated Eileen as new member. Pat seconded the motion. Motion carried. Allison will inform her.
Although Bev Guimond has been the Senior Club representative she is no longer able to attend meetings but has not resigned. Allison will follow up. Marilyn Gaskell is willing to be the Senior Club representative.
 - B. **Ad Hoc Sidewalk Committee:** Allison read a letter from Todd Rolland about increasing the network of sidewalks in Somers. Steve Getman will represent the Advisory Committee on the ad hoc committee.
 - C. **Snow Policy:** The Senior Center and Senior bus will follow the Somers school policy for closing or delayed opening.
 - D. **Social Services:** MOW: 13 clients at present. There have been some delays in delivery but Christina is coping.
Allison reported that many Somers people are struggling financially. Energy assistance had a 28% increase from 2021 to 2022. The Rockville Bank Community Foundation donated \$15,000 for the emergency fund.
There were 112 children included in the holiday program.
 - E. **Senior Center:**
 - a. **Holiday Festival Recap:** All agreed that it was a very successful program with a good attendance of people of all ages. Some suggestions were having more convenient parking and transportation for older people, more places for hot chocolate, maybe a large venue tent. Many civic groups were happy to be involved.
 - b. **Upcoming programming:** CPR training for senior center members and the entire community at the fire department in Feb. or March. All staff including Dial-a-ride drivers are CPR certified. There will be a defibrillator placed at the Field Road park. Donna has talked with Carol Pyne, Somers historian, about a walk through of the Historical Society Building when it opens this spring.
There are plans for a new Trivia program.

During spring vacation there will be interaction between the children's program and the Senior Center.

Both Maureen and Donna asked for ideas for trips and programs.

There are 2 upcoming community educational meetings about the proposed community center, on Jan. 13 Senior Center and Jan. 17 Town Hall.

7. **Committee Updates:**

8. **Adjournment:** 2:22 p.m. Tina moved Steve seconded

Next meeting February 14 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.