

Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
April 11, 2023

Present: Pat Bachetti, Matthew Cox, Eileen Fedorowich, Marilyn Gaskell, Steve Getman, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey

Absent: Joan Sizer

1. **Call to order** at 1:00 p.m. by chairperson Matthew Cox.
 2. **Approval of 02/14/23 Minutes:** Two corrections: Tina's name was omitted (absent). Incorrect spelling of Eileen's last name. Tina moved and Eileen seconded the motion that minutes be approved as amended.
 3. **Audience:** Christina Hurdle, John Kelleher
 4. **Correspondence:** none
 5. **Old Business:** none
 6. **New Business:**
 - A. **New members:** New committee members Eileen Fedorowich, Woodcrest rep and Marilyn Gaskell, Senior Club rep.
 - B. **Social Services:**

MOW: 15 active clients at present. Adding one next week.

Energy assistance deadline is May 31. Operation Fuel, an emergency utility assistance program of up to \$500, is up and running after a hiatus. Rental assistance is beginning. Matthew asked that if we know of anyone needing assistance refer them to Christina.

Christina will be at the Senior Center one day a month.

There will be a volunteer appreciation event at the Senior Center April 20.

Eileen pointed out that there is a \$25 discount available for eligible Eversource customers but this is not reflected on their bill.

Steve reported that there is assistance for Eversource customers who are delinquent with their bills. Speak with Christina for help.

Matthew talked about expanding information about resources available through Somers Human Services – expand the resource guide, add to the Senior newsletter, Somers Connect, Somers web site, a town wide post card.

We discussed a program of daily telephone calls to Seniors who do not otherwise have a support system. Eileen will check if Woodcrest residents wish to be involved.

There will be a medication take back program on April 22.

There will be a Tolland County Resource Fair in Vernon on Oct. 28. Somers Human Services will participate. Matthew suggested adding volunteer opportunities.

Ailene had asked if Human Services has information on Senior living options –local assisted living facilities, aging in place options etc. Matthew and Donna will work on this.
 - C. **Senior Center:** 85 new members have enrolled at the Senior Center since 01/07/22. There have been 5000 check-ins at the Senior Center since 01/07/22. There have been 2200 passenger rides on Dial-a-ride since 01/07/22. Eileen complimented the drivers for their professionalism.
 - The Senior Club is resuming their weekly meals indoors.
 - Donna reported on Senior Center activities and asked for ideas of programs to take the place of a fitness class that is going to end.
 - Donna reported that the referendum on the proposed Community Center which was to be held in May, has been postponed until November. Suggestions were made that, if we are in favor of a new Community Center, letters, emails etc. could be sent to the Selectmen.
7. **Committee Updates:**
8. **Adjournment:** 1:58 p.m. Pat moved Phyllis seconded

Next meeting May 9, 2023, 1:00 p.m. Senior Center

Respectfully submitted: Ailene Henry secretary Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting

