

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
September 12, 2023**

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

Absent: Matthew Cox, Joan Sizer

1. **Call to order** at 1:00 p.m. by acting chairperson Donna Richardson.
2. **Audience:** Christina Hurdle, John Kelleher, Mary Ellen Matarazzo
Introductions: Donna introduced Mary Ellen Matarazzo, new program director.
3. **Correspondence:** none
4. **Old Business:** A discussion about UR Community Cares. There was a program about this agency on July 11 at the Senior Center but it does not seem to be active in Somers. Donna will follow up.
A discussion about the proposed community center and the upcoming vote in November. There will be an informational postcard sent to all Somers residents about this. There were suggestions about a public hearing; about having the Advisory Committee do some promotion; having the First Selectman speak at the Sr. Center; having an article in the newsletter. Maureen will work on this.
5. **New Business:**
 - Social Services:** presented by Christina.
MOW: 9 active clients at present. Because of the decreased number of clients, we now have only one driver per day. This will go back to 2 if there are more than 10 clients.
Energy assistance, renters' rebate, farmers' market benefit cards are all available.
Compliments on the recent townwide postcard about social service assistance.
 - Senior Center:** Maureen reported Senior Center statistics: from July 1 2022 to June 31 2023 there were 144 new Senior Center members, average 27 member visits per day, 442 active members. Dial a Ride clients 72.
With "Somers Comes Together" grant money 2 more permanent pickleball nets will be set up. One permanent net is already in place. Pickleball program is growing. There will be a tournament in October.
Home Helpers monthly lunch will be limited to 30 people.
Hiring is in process for another part time bus driver. Pat Perry is officially retiring.
Eileen asked about the faulty wheelchair lift on both buses. There is a manually operated option but both will be repaired.
Donna distributed a flier about the Senior resource fair in Vernon on Oct. 21. Eileen asked if there would be a senior bus available. Donna will check with a driver.
There will be a flu clinic in October at the Senior Center.
There will be a Halloween party on Oct. 31. Lunch and karaoke.
Donna distributed the Somers Senior Center Policies and Procedures Manual asking committee members to look at it and suggest changes. Completed manual will be approved by the Selectmen and town attorney. All new Senior Center members will be given a copy and be asked to sign that they received it.
6. **Adjournment:** 1:57 p.m. Marilyn moved Phyllis seconded

Next meeting October 10, 2023, 1:00 p.m. Senior Center

Respectfully submitted:

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting