

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2024**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Eileen Fedorowich, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Christina Hurdle, John Kelleher, Maureen Parsell, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey

Absent: Matthew Cox, Marilyn Gaskell, Joan Sizer

Call to order at 1:00 p.m. by chairperson Donna Richardson.

Introductions: Welcome to John Kelleher, new committee member.

Approval of minutes of last meeting. Approved as written –Tina(m) Pat (s)

Correspondence: none

Old Business: A question about possible plans for a community center. Maureen stated that when this comes up again there will be more information on funding options.

New Business:

Disaster Recover/Angel Fund: In relation to recent fire and loss of life in Somers: Christina stated that Social Services is still collecting for the Angel Fund, by check, gift card, electronic funds. Money can also be left at the Senior Center. Maureen stated that Kibbe-Fuller gym is open for people to come together for support. A therapy dog is available one time a month.

Senior Center Update: Donna reported on upcoming programs

Feb. is National Heart Month – presentation/activity

National Love Your Pet Month

Feb. 9: Superbowl party

Feb. 14: Valentines Day – cake pops

Feb. 23: pancake breakfast

Feb. 28: lunch bunch trip if bus is available

Appointments are available for AARP tax aide program

Maureen reported that since July 1 there have been 50 new senior center members, 289 active members, average 31 participants per day.

Donna asked for program ideas. Eileen suggested a drumming program.

Social Services: presented by Christina.

MOW: 12 clients. Volunteers have been asked to check with clients about whether emotional support is needed relating to the recent fire disaster.

Operation Fuel was closed at the end of last year because of lack of funding but reopened today. Energy assistance is available.

The holiday toy shop served 114 children. Christina thanked those who helped.

Holiday Update:

The holiday festival was a success. Next year it will be held on Dec. 7 with the concert in the evening at the Congregational Church. Working on a better sound system for the gazebo.

Announcements/Other: Eileen asked about upcoming bus trips. Several trips are planned. Donna and Mary Ellen are working on the schedule and will advertise soon. A discussion about signing up for trips in a fair way. The sign up schedule is printed in the newsletter with Somers residents given priority.

Maureen and Donna will look into the sign up procedure.

1. **Adjournment:** 1:58 p.m. Ailene moved, Phyllis seconded

Next meeting: February 13, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Senior Center

Respectfully submitted:

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting