

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 2024**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Matthew Cox, Eileen Fedorowich, Marilyn Gaskell, Phyllis Gwilliam, Christina Hurdle, Maureen Parsell, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey, and John Kelleher

Absent: Ailene Henry and Joan Sizer

Call to order at 1:00 p.m. by chairperson Matthew Cox.

Approval of minutes of last meeting 05/14/24: Pat moved, and Phyllis seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Correspondence: none

Old Business: Donna updated the group on the status of the Grief Support Group, which had seen declining participation. She reported that after a conversation with the facilitator, some key enhancements were made, and the changes seem to have paid off. Attendance is at a new high, including a few participants from outside the immediate area.

New Business:

Senior Center Update: Marilyn reported that a recent article in the “Reminder” newspaper highlighted the senior center and that it was a nice bit of publicity. Others reported having seen it and agreed that this newspaper is a go-to source of local news and information. Donna reported that the Dial-a-Ride Handbook had been updated to include policy information about service animals. She also reported that moving forward, the handbook would be updated on an annual basis to ensure the information is fresh and accurate. Maureen reported that soon we will schedule two special “shopping days” for Dial-a-Ride to streamline trips and requests. Staff will monitor the impact, and additional enhancements may be made in the future. Donna also reported that the Qigong instructor had retired and though we are now without a steady instructor that members of the group were keeping it going for the time being. She noted that tomorrow, June 12th, was the Annual Senior Center BBQ luncheon and that around 100 attendees are expected. Soon, Marsha Hess, a local attorney, will host an “Ask a Lawyer” event at the Senior Center. Maureen reported that since the last report, the Senior Center has welcomed 123 new members. So far in 2024, we have 442 active members, an average of 33 daily.

Social Services: Christina reported that MOW has 13 active clients and that soon she will conduct home visits to check-in on clients, update our records, and provide needed resources. She also reported changes to the schedule/location of Renters’ Rebate and Farmer’s Market vouchers. Due to some administrative challenges, applications will be processed at the Senior Center and at Kibbe Fuller. She reported that she is available to provide assistance via home visits for those who are unable to get out. Appointments begin on July 1 and will be accepted until September 30th. Eileen reported changes in the Trinity Health relationship with United Healthcare and that there is a possibility that those currently served by United Healthcare will no longer be accommodated with Trinity Health. Phyllis agreed to provide staff with a letter she received in the mail. Matthew agreed that staff will keep an eye on the issue and send an update when we have one.

Adjournment: 2:00 p.m. Tina moved; Margaret seconded the motion to adjourn. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Cox for Ailene Henry, Secretary