

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
MEETING MINUTES
October 8, 2024**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Matthew Cox, Marilyn Gaskell, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Maureen Parsell

Absent: Eileen Fedorowich, Joan Sizer, John Kelleher, Annette Ramsdell, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey

Audience:

Call to order at 1:05 p.m. by chairperson Matthew Cox.

Approval of minutes of from September 10: Pat moved, and Marilyn seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

New Business:

Phyllis asked about the occupational therapy educational programs that were brought to the Senior Center by Bay Path College. That program is no longer available

Mary Ellen is working on having a speaker from Integrated Rehabilitation Services and also a speaker from a hospice program.

Senior Center Update: Maureen

Maureen distributed graphs showing Senior Center and Dial- a-Ride statistics since 2022, demonstrating steady increase in membership and usage. Maureen has met with town officials about the need for increased space for programs. Discussion included having large events held at different town venues or adding on to the existing Senior Center. Adding on would necessitate updates to the building to meet current building codes.

It was suggested that a group from the Senior Center attend a Board of Selectmen's meeting to advocate for increased space. It was also suggested to have Todd Rolland from the Department of Public Works and the town CFO, Brian Wissinger, speak at the Senior Center. Another idea put forth was to develop a "Friends of the Senior Center" to advocate and raise funds.

Maureen updated the group assembled on the insurance claim that will result in the replacement of kitchen cabinets, countertops, and flooring due to a recent water leak. Other plans include replacing appliances, and to refresh and repaint the interior of the building.

There will be a Covid and flu vaccine clinic on October 28 at Senior Center. No RSV vaccine. Also, New Years Eve dinner/dance is planned for December 31, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Joanna's Restaurant. More information to follow.

Social and Senior Services Update: Matthew

Matthew reported that a consultant has been hired by the town to develop and administer a community survey with the goal to better understand needs around mental health in Somers. Those assembled discussed various methods to reach a wide diversity of seniors. Data on the needs of youth will come from a different survey process with Somers schools.

Ailene reported that Annette worked to obtain the reflective address marker application forms to MOW clients. Some have been returned and installation is pending.

Adjournment: Phyllis moved, and Pat seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 pm. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2024, 1pm to 2pm at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted: Ailene Henry, secretary