

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2024**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Matthew Cox, Marilyn Gaskell, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, John Kelleher, Maureen Parsell, Annette Ramsdell, Donna Richardson, Tina Toohey

Absent: Eileen Fedorowich, Joan Sizer,

Audience: none

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

Approval of minutes of last meeting September 10, 2024: Tina moved and John seconded the motion that the minutes be approved as presented. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Old Business: Ailene asked about the status of the reflective house numbers for MOW clients. Annette reported that David Dunn from CERT has the information and is going to install the numbers. Since it has been some time and at least one of the clients is at risk, Matthew asked Annette to contact Mr. Dunn again.

New Business:

Call for Secretary/Recorder: Since Ailene would like to step down as secretary, Matthew asked for a replacement. To make this easier Matthew suggested that staff people could write their reports in bullet format and give them to the secretary. Matthew and town clerk Dave Marti have a helpful format for the minutes. There was a discussion on whether the statement at the end of the minutes (Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting) is necessary.

Senior Center Update: Donna

Donna reported on upcoming Senior Center events as follows:

- Dec. 2 Acrylic paint class. This was well received in the past and will continue every couple of months.
 - Dec.4 Integrated Rehabilitation. Program on back pain
 - Dec. 7 Holiday Festival. This year there will be no programs at Piedmont Hall. There will be an improved sound system. There will be caroling with Deb Salli. The High School Honor Chorus will sing.
 - Dec. 10 Lunch Bunch trip to Carriage House, Storowton
 - Dec. 11 Emergency preparedness
 - Dec. 18 Senior Club lunch with Dee Riley
 - Dec. 31 New Years Eve party at Joanna's. Signups are underway.
- Other events as seen in the Senior Center newsletter

Kitchen renovation will begin on Jan. 13. There will be no Senior Citizens' Club lunch in January. Some other events may also have to be changed.

Maureen reported that there will be a Recreation and Leisure talk on Dec. 13 to get thoughts on what Somers Seniors want for facilities and programming in the future. Maureen said she would like to see a fitness room, an arts and crafts room, a larger great room. There is a question of expanding the existing building or having a new Community Center building. There is a plan for a group to attend a Board of Selectmen's meeting with a letter stating what Seniors would like to see in the future.

Neil's doughnuts for snacks.

Social and Senior Services Update: Annette and Matthew

Tina asked that advertising go out asking for support for town charitable giving. Matthew said that advertising will go out soon asking for support for the town emergency fund, the holiday toy shop and "Stuff a Cruiser".

Annette reported that she has been busy with phone calls and personal visits from residents seeking help. She has visited all the MOW clients and plans to give each a Thanksgiving food basket.

She wishes to expand her outreach to town residents in need and asked for ideas for this.

Following are some ideas given:

- Post card or flier in residents' tax bills
- Post card/flier at library and other town venues
- Direct mail (low response in past and expensive)
- Veterans' affairs and American Legion
- Local churches

- Fire dep't digital sign
- Local medical offices

Annette reported there is a need for adult incontinence underwear and asked about accessing this.

Suggestions:

- Notice in Senior Newsletter, maybe asking for contributions of different needed items each month.
- Posters and contribution box at Geisslers
- Champ's Place (food pantry)

Announcements/Other (All)

Ailene said that the Town of Hamden MA has recently installed electric car chargers at their Senior Center and asked if Somers has plans for this. Maureen stated that Todd Rolland, DPW, is looking into this.

Adjournment: Phyllis moved and Marilyn seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned at 2:05 p.m. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Next meeting: January 14, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Senior Center

Respectfully submitted:

Ailene Henry secretary

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