

**Town of Somers  
Advisory Committee for Seniors  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 10, 1pm to 2pm**

**Present:** Ailene Henry, Phyllis Gwilliam, Tina Toohey, Marilyn Gaskell, John Kelleher, Maureen Parsell, Annette Ramsdell, Donna Richardson, Eileen Fedorowich, Joan Sizer, and Matthew Cox

**Absent:** Pat Bachetti

**Call to Order** at 1:03 p.m. by chairperson Matthew Cox.

**Approval of minutes of May 13, 2025:** Marilyn moved, and Ailene seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. After discussion, in which needed changes were reported, correcting the spelling of Marilyn's last name (Gaskell) and adding Phyllis as present, the motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Matthew provided updates on proposed cuts to Older Americans Act funding, in which additional cuts have been proposed, such as the proposal to eliminate the federal agency that oversees OAA programs and programs for people with disabilities. He thanked Ailene and Pat for their hard work to draft a sample letter for supporters to send to their members of Congress. He noted that there was still time to call, email, or send letters to elected officials. Discussion amongst members present focused on the negative impact the cuts would have on the community.

**New Business:**

**Senior Center Update: Donna Highlights included:**

Donna reported that interior painting of the Senior Center is nearly complete and that work will next begin on replacing portions of flooring and polishing of tile. This process may take a few more weeks. She also reported that the transition to hosting Senior Center events and classes at Kibbe Fuller has gone well. 90 people are registered to attend the Annual BBQ that will be held at the Knights of Columbus on Friday, June 13. June 15 is Elder Abuse Awareness Day. In observance of this day, and to highlight actions we can all take to prevent elder abuse, that the Senior Center has built out a public communications plan for social media, custom T-shirts have been printed, and Maureen facilitated training for seniors on signs or red flags that may indicate elder abuse or neglect. Also highlighted was the "Check-Call" campaign and related materials, which provide a reminder to seniors to "CHECK with a person they trust by CALLING them" before making payments, purchases, or possible scams.

The 2016 Dial-A-Ride bus is currently in the shop for repairs, and they have been able to accommodate most trips already on the calendar. Donna noted several upcoming events and trips, including the Annual Ice Cream Social during the first week of July, hosting a lobster food truck, and both ballroom and tap-dancing classes will be offered.

**Social and Senior Services Update: Annette Highlights included:**

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is now accepting applications, a quick and easy process for most seniors. Annette has scheduled to be at Woodcrest from 9am to 3pm and that schedule is full, but others interested can make individual appointments. She also reported that she and Matthew attended the CLASS Annual Meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>. State Senator Matt Lesser spoke at the event, provided a few budget updates and encouraged all to remain in contact with their elected officials. Annette recently completed her CHOICES Medicare Counseling certification training and test. Later this week she will begin shadowing another certified CHOICES counselor and plans to start seeing clients solo in a few weeks. The census for Meals on Wheels remains low, despite persistent efforts to recruit and inform the community. Last, she reported that she continues to

spend a considerable amount of time with case management for clients with complex or complicated situations. She has seen many successes.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Tina moved, and Eileen seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 pm. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Cox, Chair

**Next meeting:** September 9, 1:00 p.m. in the Senior Center Meeting Room.