

Chaplin Senior Center

Board of Directors

132 Chaplin Street

Chaplin, CT 06235

The Board of Directors for the Chaplin Senior Center met on Tuesday, **February 2, 2021**, in the community room of the Chaplin Senior Center and via the GoToMeeting app.

Members present: Lisa Kegler, Doreen Bolduc, Cathy Dietrichsen, Shirley Rakos, Irene Schein, Jeanette Haines, alternate Ann Lewis, Suzanne Krodel (running the meeting tech) and Victoria Northrop (recording clerk).

As a meeting where the public would normally be present, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was audio-broadcast through the “GoToMeeting” app for any interested member of the public in accordance with CT Executive Order 7s.

1. Lisa Kegler started the broadcast and Doreen started the recording and called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Audience for Citizens: Bob Grindle, Adele Swart, and Carol Rose present remotely.

Irene Schein raised a motion to elect officers at the meeting, as the election had not been carried out in June as the By-Laws state they should have been. This motion was seconded and carried.

Lisa Kegler nominated **Irene Schein for Chair**. The nomination was seconded and carried, Irene accepted. The number of members present was checked (6) and Ann Lewis was seated as alternate. It was raised that there was currently no vice-chair. Irene asked if there were any nominations, and none were made. The formal position of Treasurer will potentially be a role of the eventual new Senior Center Director. **Lisa Kegler was nominated as acting Treasurer**, which was seconded and carried unanimously. **Victoria Northrop was nominated to continue as Secretary/clerk** and it was seconded and carried.

As the audience for citizens continued, Bob Grindle spoke and explained that the grinder sale was canceled from the kitchen’s end, because of uncertainty about getting work done in the time frame, and because Lisa might not have been available due to a potential new Director coming in. He apologized to the board for the abrupt cancellation.

Adele Swart then spoke: as a long-time resident of Chaplin, she was concerned about the Sr. Center and the process for choosing the new Director. She asked what rubric was used. Why was a local not given preference? How is the decision being made fairly? How was the person chosen from the board that made the recommendation? Was any preference given to a local who knows Chaplin and its citizens? She expressed disappointment that a local choice had not been made—rather than an outsider.

Doreen responded: There had been four applicants. Their resumes had been checked and interviews conducted. Two had been unqualified, two had been qualified. They had recommended the person with the most experience. The job offer has not yet been formally made. Doreen was asked by the Board of Selectmen to make a recommendation. She expressed that the Senior Center Board is interested in enlarging/growing the membership. The current candidate has 5 years of experience as a senior center director.

Irene Schein asked: was the entire committee present for the interview of the final two qualified applicants. Doreen responded no. Irene asked why an interview was scheduled when one of the interviewers was unable to make it? Why wasn't the entire board informed of the interviews being ongoing? Doreen responded that the other interviewer had thought he could attend but ended up not being able. Irene concluded that it is now in the hands of the Board of Selectmen.

3. **Seating of Alternates:** Ann Lewis seated.
4. **Secretary's Report:** Approved with two amendments.
5. **Correspondence:** None
6. **Director's Report:** Lisa Kegler then gave the report on finances:
 - A. Cash on Hand: \$449.59
 - B. Special Revenues: \$25,614.31
 - C. Membership Status: +/- 308. The current membership count is inaccurate due to people moving away or passing away and a cleaned up list and tally will be prepared for the next meeting.
 - D. Dues collection: Due to the pandemic closure, dues for 2021 have been waived
 - E. **Review of the Center's Activities:** Lisa Kegler reported that **Zoom Yoga** with Cathy Dietrichsen is continuing. The **Zoom sit-and-stretch class** is also going well. **Zoom Craft classes** have around six members who meet twice a month. **Tai'chi classes** are potentially beginning on Zoom and eventually coming live when the center reopens. Lisa and Ann are phoning members to help them sign up to get vaccinated in phase 1b.
 - F. **Other:** nothing at this time.
7. **Budget:** the budget has not been completed yet, pending the appointment of a new Director. The Town Hall says there is leeway with the deadline.
8. **Survey:** Ann Lewis spoke about the survey of activities for the future that match the Seniors interest and the Center's budget. Activities will be proposed both for during COVID restrictions and post-COVID. A draft of another activity survey will be prepared.
9. **Laptop:** Lisa purchased a good used laptop from the Kennedy Exchange. She reported that the town agreed for the money to be taken out of the budget, so it didn't have to be paid for from the special revenue. It is functioning well and being used for the Zoom classes.

10. Expanded Zoom: Lisa would like to purchase expanded zoom for \$149.99 /yr. for the Center, so that classes can last longer than the 40 minutes that are available in the basic app. GotoMeeting was proposed as an alternative. Shirley Rakos responded that most of the seniors are already familiar with Zoom and find it simpler. There was a motion to buy the Zoom upgrade, which was seconded and carried.

11. Building Review: The physical building of the Center is fine.

12. Other Topics: Jeanette Haines stated that the Library Board wants to call attention to the search for a poet laureate for the town. They are seeking someone who is interested in writing something inspirational for the upcoming Bicentennial. Lisa responded that it can be announced in the newsletter. The Bicentennial committee would like to put together a panel of seniors who will talk about growing up in Chaplin “back in the day” at the library. This will also be put in the newsletter.

13. Next Meeting Date: March 2, 2021

14. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned 10.05 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk