

Chaplin Senior Center

Board of Directors

132 Chaplin Street

Chaplin, CT 06235

The Board of Directors for the Chaplin Senior Center met on Tuesday, **May 4, 2021**, remotely via the GoToMeeting app and at the meeting room at the Senior Center.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Ann Lewis, Jeanette Haines, Shirley Rakos, Carl Linkkila, Cathy Dietrichsen, Crystal Gebhardt, Ellen Gillon, Director Lisa Kegler, 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. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Alternate Ann Lewis was seated for Neil Muckenhoupt. **Audience for Citizens:** None present.

Irene stated that the Board of Selectmen had let them know that Doreen Bolduc had resigned from the Board and there was a need to fill her position. Irene made a suggestion to appoint Ann Lewis as a regular member. The Board approved of the idea. A new alternate will be needed: Lisa Kegler suggested Robin Hoagland. A discussion followed about other potential alternates with connections to the Senior Center. Irene suggested putting it on the Facebook page. Ann Lewis would need to resign as an alternate, then the Board suggest her to the Board of Selectmen and then be approved. Irene read out the rules regarding unanimous consent (general consent), and stated that as long as there is unanimous consent, there is no rule that a vote needs to take place.

- 2. Secretary’s Report:** the board reviewed the draft minutes of the Special Meeting of April 8th 2021 and Jeanette made a motion to approve them, Crystal seconded them, and they were passed by the Board, with Ann and Carl abstaining as they were not present last month.

3. Correspondence: None

4. Director’s Report:

Cash on hand: \$394.93

Special revenue account: \$29,343.80

Membership status: 321 members

Dues collection: dues have been waived due to the pandemic for this year.

Lisa reopened discussion of containers for the curbside lunches: she called the company EBP that provides Styrofoam containers and they gave her two alternatives. There is a compostable version made of organics that they suggested. It costs \$.13 more than the current container, for a total of \$.27. They also suggested a recyclable plastic container that is washable and reusable, but that costs \$.40 per larger container. Ann Lewis asked if we have money in the budget for the containers; should the cost be passed to consumers or come from the budget? Crystal, Ann, and Shirley had some discussion of whether it could come from the special revenue. Lisa prefers the compostable container, and others seem to, too (+\$.13 large, +\$.5 small). Cathy asked whether we could use some of the COVID money for this rather than going into the special revenue. Irene asked Lisa if the cost could be covered from the COVID money; they will address this to the Selectmen's Office as part of the costs of reopening as part of a larger package. Jeanette asked what budget in the COVID funds is available for the Senior Center, and Irene replied that they will ask the Board of Selectmen.

- 5. Reopening Discussion:** Irene asked for new information on re-opening. Lisa said that Columbia and Ashford Senior Centers are reopening in June. Masks will be mandatory to enter the buildings. Reservations and rosters for potential contact tracing, and social distancing (6 feet normally, 12 feet for exercise classes) will be needed. These Sr. Centers are also working with Eastern Highlands. Lisa said bathrooms would need to be sanitized after each usage. Ventilation is highly important. Jeanette said the air scrubber in the Library has the downside of being very noisy, which might be difficult for hearing for the seniors. The ventilation system of the Center is due for an update and the new units may include purification. Carl mentioned that things are in constant flux with the situation. Irene isn't sure how much money should be invested when the situation may change so quickly.

Lisa said the seniors are not particularly happy about having to wear masks and it discourages participation for indoor activities. An outdoor tent was suggested as an alternative, as well as keeping all windows open in the Community Room. Jeanette asked for the time frame on the ventilation system update. Irene said that Bill Rose is currently looking into costs. Carl discussed the air quality issues with the older building and how different standards apply now and talked about the longevity of the heating and air units. Lisa suggested a focus on outdoor activities. Irene said with the Community Room there are fewer restrictions because of its size. The seating capacity in an outdoor tent space was also discussed. Lisa will ask the Health Department about mask usage outdoors, especially for fully vaccinated people.

- 6. Activities, Social Media and Other Outreach:** The Fisherman's Breakfast was successful, with 52 participants. The profit from the breakfast was \$193.97. The Horizon Wings program in conjunction with the Library was also a success, with 75+ participants. The plant and grinder sale will be coming up on the 8th, with 60 grinder orders so far. There are many donated plants to sell, including vegetables. There will also be Mother's

Day gifts and flowers. Lisa has sufficient volunteers for Friday. There will be easy ups to help keep off the potential rain. There will be an outdoor gardening party the week after to plant any leftover plants. On May 27th there will be a craft class, both on ZOOM and in the Library meeting room. The walking group had 11 participants and is growing. The ZOOM sit and stretch has also gone well and will be including an outdoor component. Irene emphasized how useful a tent would be for all these outdoor activities and how it should probably come from the town's COVID budget. Tai Chi has been going slowly with only 4 members and will probably only continue through May unless more people start participating. Irene suggested more marketing with a demonstration to encourage more people to take part. Curbside lunches are still going well.

- 7. Review space usage and guidelines in light of present and future needs:** Lisa says that she went over the potential outdoor space with Dave Stone, and the space will need to be smaller so there is still room for maintenance vehicles such as septic pumping and mowers to go through. Dave feels the footing should be small stone rather than mulch.
- 8. Survey responses:** There has been a lot of response to the survey, and good feedback from the seniors. The idea of trips to New York and Boston were very popular. Exercise classes also received a lot of votes. Massage and pedicure were also well received.
- 9. Aging in Chaplin discussion and senior housing update:** Irene, Dawn, Leslie Ricklin, Ann Chuk, and Jean Noel are all interested in participating in this project. Irene suggested the group could meet outside and she will contact these people to arrange a time. They will discuss aging in place and alternatives, and figure out a plan for how to apply for grant money and current resources.
- 10. Next Meeting Date:** June 1, 2021 @ 9.30 a.m.
- 11. Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 10.29 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk