

Chaplin Senior Center
Board of Directors
132 Chaplin Street
Chaplin, CT 06235

The Board of Directors for the Chaplin Senior Center met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, **June 7, 2022**, in Senior Center craft room.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Ann Lewis, Jeanette Haines, Crystal Gebhardt; alternates Robin Hoagland and Janice Godaire, Director Lisa Kegler, and Victoria Northrop (recording clerk).

- 1. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.** Robin Hoagland was seated for Walt Zlotnick and Janice Godaire was seated for Carl Linkkila.
- 2. Audience for Citizens:** Cesar Beltran attended.
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the Board Meeting of May 3, 2022 were approved unanimously after a motion was initiated by Jeanette Haines and seconded by Janice Godaire.
- 4. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:** Irene stated that the terms of three members of the board were ending this month: Ellen Gillon, Jeanette Haines, and Irene Schein. After confirming that said members were interested in continuing their tenure, Ann Lewis moved to reappoint said members, which was seconded by Crystal Gebhardt and approved by the Board, with Irene and Jeanette abstaining. The appointment, according to the Board, is for 3 years. The Board then went on to elect officers: Lisa Kegler was asked to continue as Treasurer and Victoria Northrop to continue as Secretary/recording clerk. Ann Lewis moved to reappoint them, Jeanette seconded, and the Board approved. Shirley Rakos made a motion for Irene to stay on as Chair, which was seconded by Janice Godaire and then passed by the Board, with Irene abstaining. After some discussion about the role and duties of Vice-Chair and after the current Vice-Chair, Ann Lewis, asked if anyone else was interested in taking over the role, Irene eventually nominated Ann to continue in the role, which was seconded by Crystal Gebhardt, and passed by the Board.
- 5. Director's Report:**
 - a. Special Revenue Fund: \$36,724.85
 - b. Cash on Hand: \$486.19
 - c. Membership: Lisa reported that the membership mailing list and the alphabetical members list had been unified and checked for accuracy (some members had passed away or moved), which

led to the removal of 36 members and the addition of 5. The total number of members now stands at 356.

d. Dues collected: \$2110.50

Lisa reported that the activities for the Center are going well, including the popular massage, haircuts, and podiatry, bingo, and watercolor class. The Plant and Grinder Sale fundraiser that occurred last month was a great success, with a profit of \$824.57 on the grinders and a profit of \$3203.98 for the plants. Lisa stated that leftover plants were sold first at the Senior Center, and then any remaining plants were donated to the Elementary School's plant sale. Hanging baskets were the most popular item at the plant sale, and the indoor venue helped the volunteers set up the day before. Lisa says there is no news yet on the massage chair grant. The Center is co-sponsoring a band concert at Garrison Park on June 25th, with a rain date the following day. Advertising is happening on various platforms. A state trooper will be giving a lecture on Home and Auto Safety later in the month. Lunches are going well, with 50-65 participants each time. Lisa is delivering several lunches to shut-ins. Lisa is still putting together the materials for the next BOS meeting on increasing staff hours.

Lisa received the landscaping estimate from the contractor who works on the Library side of the building and shared it with the Board. It involved removing dying/overgrown shrubs and replanting. The town budget includes ongoing maintenance 3x /year for the landscaping, but the initial work will come from the Special Revenue Fund. The Board discussed potentially asking the DPW to help with the removal of the dying shrubs and the ramifications of removing town property (the pine tree) and the public announcements necessary. In the end the Board approved up to \$2000 for the landscaping from the Special Revenue Fund.

6. **COVID Protocols:** The number of cases has been dropping again and no new protocols are in place.
7. **Guidelines for Use of the Community Center Room:** Use of the Community room has to be sponsored by a town agency. Paperwork/application must be submitted with proof of insurance. A calendar for use of the room exists and the room is being used for pickleball and will be for the Artists' Open Studios, etc. The multi-function room of the Senior Center needs to have its guidelines for use re-assessed and re-written by the Board, as they are out of date and inconsistent with current usage. The Board received copies of the rules and will go through them to discuss their update at the August Board meeting. Lisa mentioned that in addition to the two spaces mentioned above, the town is also in the process of purchasing a 20 x 40 foot tent to use in the manner the tent was in the previous year on the Senior Center grounds.
8. **Art Hanging System:** Irene reported that she had done further research on the cost of the hanging system for artwork and that for approximately 80 foot of track, cables, caps, and hooks it would cost between \$1500 and \$2000 all-told. Jeanette and Crystal wanted to make absolutely certain that the installation cost would not put the cost above this level. Robin moved to allocate the funds for the purchase, with the caveat from the other Board

members that installation would be researched before the final purchase. Shirley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

- 9. Needs of Seniors (Housing and other assistance):** The Board discussed at some length how Senior housing could be matched between landlords and tenants, the supply and lack of supply of affordable housing in Chaplin, how seniors should best be served by tackling the issue on an individual basis. The town did submit its affordable housing plan on June 1st. It was agreed that the best way to keep both the seniors and property owners safe and in control was to help spread word-of-mouth information about need and availability. Crystal emphasized how trustworthiness and legal ramifications would need to be taken into account if the Senior Center or Ann Lewis were going to get involved in any formal manner. The existence of the URCommunityCares organization was brought to the Board's attention, which might help underserved seniors find volunteer help in various areas like yardwork, doctor's appointments, etc. In the end the Board agreed that the best way to handle these needs is on a case-by-case basis with the combined efforts of formal and volunteer assistance.

There were no other Board Member Reports.

- 10. Next Meeting Date:** August 2, 2022 @ 10 a.m.

- 11. Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk