

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, **April 5, 2022**, in the craft room of the Senior Center.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Ann Lewis, Jeanette Haines, Ellen Gillon (arr. 10.05), Crystal Gebhardt, Carl Linkkila, and Walt Zlotnick; alternates Dawn Gilbert, Robin Hoagland, and Janice Godaire, Director Lisa Kegler, and Victoria Northrop (recording clerk).

1. **Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.** Alternate Robin Hoagland was seated for Catherine Dietrichsen.

2. **Secretary's Report and Additions or Changes to Agenda:** Victoria stated that an amendment to the draft minutes of the regular March meeting needed to be made by striking the sentence about the kitchen not being able to do both dine-in and curbside lunches. Jeanette stated that she needed to correct Helen Weingart's role from Bicentennial Committee representative to Arboretum Committee. Ann moved to approve the draft minutes with amendments, which was seconded by Robin Hoagland, then passed by the Board. Victoria will resubmit the amended minutes.

3. **Audience for Citizens:** none

4. **Director's Report and Correspondence:**
Special Revenue Fund: \$27,867.32
Cash on Hand: \$33.45
Membership: 362
Dues Collected: \$1,925

Lisa informed the Board that the Thursday Morning Breakfast Club would be resuming its potluck breakfasts beginning at 8 a.m. each Thursday. Due to their increasing popularity she will be creating a sign-up sheet to help calculate numbers of participants.

The new watercolor class with instructor Sharon Punty has begun and people are enjoying her more hands-on instructional approach.

The Fisherman's Breakfast is slated for next Saturday. So far 31 people have signed up for it, which is a lower number than last year. The Board asked Lisa if it was synched with the date for the Fishing Derby or the new stocking of fish this year, and

unfortunately it wasn't able to be. Fishing season has also been changed this year so there is no significant 'opening day'.

The annual fundraising Plant and Grinder Sale is set for May 7th from 10 am to 12:30. It will feature seedlings, flowers, hanging baskets and other houseplants. There will also be handmade crafts from the Senior Center for sale, and the Friends of the Library will be selling used books. Grinders and cookies are available for \$8 for the two. Lisa asked for volunteers and many of the Board members and alternates stepped forward to offer assistance. Lisa let the Board know that she would be sourcing the plants from various places and would set prices in a reasonable band in comparison with Home Depot nursery prices. Quantities are based on last year's sale. Hanging baskets and geraniums were very popular. Baskets of flowers will be assembled beforehand at Lisa's.

There is no news yet on the grant for the potential massage chair for the Center. A second estimate for the shed roof has not yet been received.

Correspondence:

Lisa received a note from Dave Stone on the estimated cost of re-stripping the painted lines for parking spaces in the Center's lot (\$400-500). If this is done, it would need to happen later in spring, because the lot needs to be swept first. Sandra Horning from the Library had asked if the town would cover this expense. Apparently it is normally spread between the Library and Senior Center budgets. In the discussion that followed it was mentioned that the town is considering potentially putting all town building maintenance under one budget line instead of creating separate budgets for each town building, in order to streamline. Jeanette stated that she thinks it is much more reasonable to combine all maintenance, for example all landscaping for all town buildings be carried out by the same provider on an annual contract. Irene stated that this would be a decision for the Board of Selectmen rather than the Board of Finance. The Board thinks that the parking lot maintenance and eventual repaving should be taken from the capital improvement budget rather than the Senior Center's budget. Some questioned whether the restriping should be delayed until after the lot is repaved so it doesn't need to be twice, but it is uncertain whether the two year delay would be too long. Irene stated she would draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen on this topic.

More correspondence was received on the topic of the potential donation by the Center of an additional bench for Garrison Park in honor of the Bicentennial. Rather than ordering expensive pre-cast concrete shipped from Canada, the DPW intends to pour the base elements of the benches that are to be installed. Carl estimated that with concrete, wood, and installation it would probably be about \$1000 to donate a bench. The Board agreed that it cannot say yes or no to a bench at this point without knowing final total cost and intended location. Irene stated that the Center has many upcoming expenses including the shed re-roofing, the door plates to protect the new paint job, and the gallery hanging system for the artwork in the main room. Shirley stated that she is hesitant to spend the

money on a bench right now. It was mentioned that the town museum move will also be memorializing Mr. Philbrick to some extent. Walt stated that donated dollars that have been given to the Senior Center should be spent on the Seniors, and unless we can separate donations and fundraised funds we should hesitate to spend them on more general projects. Irene suggested creating a Mission Statement for the Senior Center that includes an element of how to spend such funds. Ann agreed that it would be good to draft a Mission Statement. Lisa described the sources of Special Revenue briefly. Jeanette read the Mission Statement of the Wallingford Senior Center as an example:

“The mission of the Wallingford Senior Center is to provide services and programs for older adults of the Wallingford community that enhance their dignity, support their independence, and invite their involvement in community life.”

- 5. Post Interior Painting Discussion:** To protect the new paint, chairs are being kept away from the wall and door plates are being ordered to protect the lighter color from soiling. Irene has contacted Brian Cohen, who is experienced with gallery hanging, about obtaining a gallery hanging system to display artwork in the Senior Center which involves pendant cables from a track installed on the wall. This would enable the Senior Center to hold monthly exhibitions of artwork from residents of Chaplin and seniors. Irene says the system is likely to cost a few hundred dollars at most. The idea would be to have a rotating exhibition of local works which would fit within a maximum size limit and be juried for display order by the Board, possibly with a gallery opening event (wine & cheese?). Photography, drawings, paintings would all be able to be submitted by Chaplin residents and Center members.
- 6. Best Use of Space:** Following the painting, some shelving has been moved to cubbies. The jigsaw puzzle table will remain. The piano will be moved into the dining room (it requires tuning, however, which will cost \$150). Lisa would like to install small shelves or baskets in the kitchen for the personal items of the staff who work there, due to the Health Department’s regulations. They will be inspecting this month.
- 7. Board Member Reports:** Lisa stated that the Center indeed has gone over budget on propane by \$1200, although heating season is ending soon. She stated the system needs constant maintenance and has faulty gauges. The costs have gone up not due to increased usage, but rather due to rising prices of propane. She mentioned the recent power outage had affected the pilot lights in the kitchen and she had learned more about how the system works during that outage. Lisa would like to obtain more exercise / thera-bands for the Senior Center. The concert band has been booked for June 25th at 6pm with a rain date the following day. The rec department will be handling food rather than food trucks. Irene asked Ann Lewis how things are going as Municipal Agent and she responded that she has been approached by caregivers looking for assistance and by people looking for advice on estate planning.

Next Meeting Date: May 3, 2022 @ 10 a.m.

8. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk