

**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, **March 7, 2023**, in the Senior Center craft room.

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

- 1. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.** Alternates Godaire and St. Lawrence were seated for Zlotnick and Haines. No additions or changes to the agenda were made.
- 2. Audience for Citizens:** None present.
- 3. Minutes:** The minutes of the Board Meeting of February 7, 2023 were approved with one abstention after a motion was initiated by Ellen and seconded by Ann.
- 4. Old Business**

**4a. Director's Report:**

- a. Special Revenue Fund: \$37,181.75
- b. Cash on Hand: \$307.18
- c. Membership: 371 (4 added)
- d. Dues Collected: \$2265
- e. Correspondence: None

The Board discussed briefly whether it would be worth pursuing collection of dues from people who hadn't paid them and concluded that, as over 60% of members had paid, it would not be worth the time and effort to make extreme efforts beyond posting signs and adding it to the newsletter and google groups.

Lisa reported that hundreds of plants were growing for the Plant & Grinder Sale fundraiser to take place on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed that because hanging baskets were very popular items at the sale and since the normal supplier was ill and not producing them this year, a new source for 50 baskets would be found through Lisa's connection. The size, price, and composition of the baskets were discussed. Irene made a motion to approve the purchase wholesale of the 50 baskets and Joyce seconded the motion, which then passed. The retail price of the baskets and

other plants at the sale is to be decided at a later date. The Fisherman's Breakfast has signups already and a dining trip to Wright's Chicken Farm is also planned.

### **5b. Art Committee Update**

1. The hanging tracks have all been installed by Pete and look wonderful. The Board decided that Pete, for his efforts, should be rewarded with a gift card to Home Depot for \$100. The motion to fund this purchase from the remaining art hanging allocation was made by Ellen, seconded by Janice, and passed unanimously.
2. The Art Committee recommended that more cables and hooks be purchased, as 20 may not be sufficient for hanging multiple works. The Board approved this as funds remain in the art hanging budget for the purchase of 10-15 additional hooks and cables. The Board recommends that the artist hang their own work and if any higher ladder work is required, it should be taken on by an insured town employee
3. Outreach to artists: both Irene and Lisa have initial artists in mind for the spring show. Irene will give the information for contact to the Art Committee. The Board thinks that the shows should take place monthly for now, with the potential of them happening bi-monthly or quarterly if insufficient exhibitors are found. The Board discussed whether there needs to be a damage waiver signed by the artist, and Lisa reinforced that any sales of the artwork would need to be through the artist, not through the Center.
4. The Art Committee proposes that works displayed (other than on the evening of the opening itself) be limited to wall-hanging pieces, whether paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, or fiber arts. Sculpture would only be able to be exhibited during the opening, and only on a smaller scale. The Board agreed that the Committee will decide on the appropriateness of the works to be displayed and will steer clear of highly political content or controversial nudity, due to the general audience.

### **4c. Community Center Administration and Costs, Policy Update, and Sound Dampening System:**

Irene stated that according to the last meeting, the sound dampening system proposed has been taken off the table, probably due to cost. The Board discussed the ongoing issue of cigarette butts and trash being left by the Cornhole League events and decided to add a checklist including pickup of any litter left outside as well as inside. The Board and Director will take this issue to the Board of Selectmen if it continues to be a problem. Lisa is having a camera installed which may help identify when and who is creating this issue. Continued failure to clean up will probably result in escalation of the complaints.

**4d. Multifunction Room Outlets/Improvements:** Lisa reported to the Board that a major renovation of the ceiling is planned for HVAC in spring/summer and that the plan will be to wait until the time that the work is being done to add the outlets in order to carry out all the work in the same period.

## 5. New Business

- a) Approve budget: The Board addressed and passed the budget in February
- b) Security camera: Lisa stated that the new camera would be installed above the front door soon, and that it would function when the Center is closed/at night.
- c) Board membership terms: The following Board members terms expire in June: Likkila, Zlotnick, Rakos, Hoagland, Godaire, St. Lawrence. Irene said that Walt is most likely not seeking another term and that she would like to promote Robin as longest sitting alternate into the empty seat. She also mentioned that Victoria would be interested in becoming an alternate. The Board also mentioned that there are three current alternates so the Ordinance needs to be checked to make sure that three are allowed vs. two.
- d) Grants: Lisa has a great deal of information on potential grants. She mentioned possibly seeking help with transportation, either through a transportation fund for rental or actual purchase of a van. The Board discussed this and stated that maintaining, insuring, fueling, storing, driving the vehicle all would add to the bottom line of the annual budget. The Board discussed sharing a vehicle with other senior centers nearby or renting for specific trips from EastConn or another source. Other ideas for grant money were also proposed, such as installing an outdoor pickleball court on the existing playground area behind the Center, or cleaning the Center's upholstered chairs which are soiled with food.

## 6. Suggestions for Next Regular Meeting: Further discussion of the grants, ordinances for Board Members, and follow up on the Community Room situation.

## 7. Next Meeting Date: April 4, 2023 @ 10 a.m.

## 8. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk