

**Chaplin Senior Center**

**Board of Directors**

**132 Chaplin Street**

**Chaplin, CT 06235**

The Board of Directors for the Chaplin Senior Center met for a special meeting on Tuesday, **November 2, 2021**, in the Senior Center craft room.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Ann Lewis, Jeanette Haines, Cathy Dietrichsen, Ellen Gillon (10:12 arr.) alternates Robin Hoagland and Dawn Gilbert, Director Lisa Kegler, and Victoria Northrop (recording clerk).

**1. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.**

Alternates Robin Hoagland and Dawn Gilbert were seated for Walt Zlotnick and Carl Linkkila

**2. Audience for Citizens:** None present

**3. Secretary's Report:** the Board reviewed the draft minutes of the Meeting of October 5, 2021. Ann Lewis moved to accept the minutes, which was then seconded by Jeanette and approved by the Board, with the exception of Ellen Gillon, who had not yet arrived.

**4. Time Change of Meeting:** This November meeting is still considered a special meeting due to the time change from 9:30 to 10:00 requiring a 30 day advance notice which has not yet been reached.

**5. Appointment Replacement Alternate:** The Board discussed and voted on the replacement alternate member who would succeed Ellen Gillon. Irene had spoken to and suggested the appointment of Janice Godaire, whom the Senior Center Board would recommend to the Board of Selectmen. Robin moved to accept this and Dawn seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously (Ellen had not yet arrived for this vote).

**6. Correspondence:** None.

**7. Director's Report:**

**Cash on hand:** \$177.08

**Special revenue account:** \$31,303.85

**Membership status:** 349 members

**Dues collection:** dues are still waived due to the pandemic until the end of 2021. \$375 in dues have been paid anyway

**8. Activities and Other Outreach:** Lisa stated that the Center has gained a couple of new members from neighboring towns, particularly for watercolor classes and the lunch

program. Events at the Center have been being posted in the Chronicle newspaper, on Facebook, in the Google Group, by e-mail newsletter, and in the paper copy of the newsletter. Jeanette suggested that those who receive a paper newsletter but get theirs digitally also might have the ability to opt out of the paper newsletter in order to save the Center time and money in its distribution.

The Center is in the process of taking on the ancestry.com subscription that was discussed and approved earlier. Members will be able to do research using the Center's account, which costs the Center approx. \$139 for six months and print out things for a nominal fee of 10 cents per page. Rick Nichols has volunteered to help people who are new to the website with its usage and it was suggested that he teach a small introductory class on the topic. There will be a genealogy program at the Center in mid-November. Lisa plans to keep a log of usage in order to assess its popularity.

There will be a Medicare Checkup by Ken from Longview on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> by appointment in order to help seniors optimize their Medicare program use.

The watercolor class is going well, although it will be put on temporary hold with the instructor due to his health for a couple of months after December.

The Lunch program remains extremely popular, but the possibility of raising the price of the meal from five dollars may need to be discussed if food prices continue to rise.

**9. Landscaping:** Lisa heard back from the Library's landscaper and how much it would cost to combine their services for the Library and Senior Center. The estimate from LJ Plants and Landscaping in Andover came back at \$500 for the initial redo of the beds and shrubs (not including new plants and materials) and \$350 per visit/hr? for the maintenance once it's been redone. The landscaper also gave an estimate for maintenance and pruning without replacement of dead/dying shrubs. The board members thought it seemed somewhat high for an hourly rate and discussed the possibility of competing bids from local landscapers and think clarification is needed whether the \$500 was an hourly fee or a one-off fee, and whether the \$350 was per hour or per visit. There was a discussion of perhaps getting together a volunteer team for the initial clearing/removal process. Jeanette and others said it was probably better for the Center to see if it could be placed as a line item cost under the maintenance budget in the new budget. Clarification of the frequency of the landscaper's visits would also need to be gained. Lisa will contact the landscaper and check the Center's maintenance budget over the winter and make a decision with the Board for spring.

**10. Holiday Closure and Maintenance:** The Center will be closed on Veteran's Day and will be closed for lunch and the afternoon of the day before Thanksgiving Day. The Board discussed the Christmas/New Year's week closure which had been the usual time

for deep cleaning of the Center and decided that, since the Center had been much less heavily used this year due to only opening to the public in July, the deep clean could be postponed. Lisa prefers to keep the Center open for the holiday week, with the exception of the Mondays after Christmas and New Year's (December 27 and January 3) when all town offices will be closed.

The Board also discussed the interior painting of the Center which has not been done since the Center opened 21 years ago. Lisa will get an estimate for the painting and see if there is sufficient funding in the maintenance budget. The timing of the painting work and the colors to be used will need to be decided.

#### **11. Affordable Housing in Chaplin:**

Irene attended and October 19<sup>th</sup> Zoom conference Housing Forum Report with the Windham Region Interfaith Working Group and other NGOs and towns represented which discussed achieving affordable housing for those who do not have housing or who are paying more than 30% of their income for housing. There was a lot of advice given on this process and how to fund it – most funding in other programs came from a large variety of sources. Irene stated that the Chaplin Affordable Housing Plan 15k grant for research of the plan (with NECOG) needs to be used or potentially lost and that an affordable housing theory for the town needs to be created. The Town steering committee and NECOG will finally have their meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss this and the zoning changes for accessory apartments and how that might help the town meet the stringent State requirements for percentage of affordable housing increase (vs. affordable housing as a percentage of total housing stock). Chaplin needs to meet the housing needs of its low and fixed income population, who are mainly seniors.

**Next Meeting Date:** December 7, 2021 @ 10 a.m.

**12. Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk