

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, **February 4, 2025**, in the Senior Center craft room.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Robin Hoagland, Crystal Gebhardt, Ellen Gillon, Ann Lewis, Shirley Rakos; alternates Joyce St. Lawrence, Sally Ireland, and Victoria Northrop (also acting as recording clerk); Director Lisa Kegler and Assistant Director, Lynn Grindle.

- 1. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.** Irene seated Victoria Northrop for Carl Linkkila, Joyce St. Lawrence for Janice Godaire, and Sally Ireland for Dawn Gilbert.
- 2. Additions to the Agenda:** None
- 3. Audience for Citizens:** Peggy Church was present and spoke to the Board about the New Horizons music program for adults and seniors who want to return to playing a musical instrument in a group setting with open admission. She asked the Board if the Center had any musical members and if she could place a piece in the March newsletter to reach out to seniors and the community to gauge interest in the program. Peggy will send Lisa a draft of the newsletter blurb.
- 4. Minutes:** The minutes of the Board Meeting of December 3, 2024 were approved unanimously after a motion was initiated by Ellen and seconded by Sally.
- 5. Old Business**

5a. Director's Report:

- a. Special Revenue Fund: \$44,631.77
- b. Cash on Hand: \$149.62
- c. Membership: 411
- d. Dues for 2025 thus far: \$1410
- e. Correspondence: None

Lisa gave the Board a detailed breakdown of the Center's use and activities for October.

- There were 845 individual visits to the Center in December
- 371 lunches were served

The detailed breakdown included the number of participants in all twelve of the Center's regular activities, the most popular being 165 doing "Fit and Fun", 70 in the breakfast club, and 63 playing Mahjongg. Lisa said there had been a successful field trip to the Publick House for lunch for 51 seniors. The tax collector's visit to the Center served 29 taxpayers.

Lisa said that Mansfield's Farm to Family program had donated 15 slots to Chaplin in their farm to table /CSA-style monthly food distribution program. Participants under a certain fairly generous income level cut-off are free to sign up by no later than the 20th of February. Slots still remained as of the February 4.

The annual Chili Challenge cook-off will take place on March 8th and will have prizes for the 3 best dishes.

Lisa distributed a copy of the budget for 2025-26 to the Board, who all read through it. Lisa said that there had been very little change from the previous year due to general belt-tightening in the town's revenues. Sally moved to approve it, Ellen seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Dawn Gilbert has resigned from the assistant cook position due to health reasons but will remain on the Center's Board for now. Lisa is discussing the type of replacement who will be needed in the position with the Center's main cook, Bob Grindle, and they intend to fill the position soon. Lynn Grindle is currently picking up Dawn's hours.

5b. Art Committee Update

- Victoria exhibited her work in January
- Alice Kuzel is currently exhibiting for the month of February
- Paul Ramsay will exhibit in March
- Jane Collins is slated for April
- Gabrielle Zane is being asked for May by Ellen
- For October, an "art market" suggested by Ann Chuk, featuring works of various artists that people would like to offer for sale. Possibly we could suggest some small donation to the Center from proceeds.
- For Nov-Dec: a collaborative show once again of the artists who displayed their work over the course of 2025.

For future exhibits in summer the following people are being considered:

Michael Connor (architectural drawings)

Bruce Raymond (photos)

Cathy Smith (fabric art)

5c. Chorus Update: The chorus is temporarily on hold.

5d. Facility Update: Lisa informed the Board that the craft room freezer had died and she had had to purchase a replacement on an emergency basis using the maintenance budget. She informed the Board that the gas oven in the kitchen needs servicing, as it is belching soot. She's currently trying to find a tradesperson to make the repair. The Board gave some suggestions on whom she might contact.

The Board discussed once again issues with the cleanliness of the Community Room floor after corn-hole night, as the corn-hole participants do not remove their outdoor shoes and track in all manner of debris. The debris left on the floor poses a slip-hazard for the Senior Center's pickle ball activity that follows, and could lead to an **injury/lawsuit**. The Board highly recommends that the town/rec commission obtain janitorial service to come in after corn-hole night to clean in order to negate this risk. Irene says she will speak to Dave Stone (or the rec commission in general) about this.

6. New Business

- a) **Review Multifunction Room Rules/Guidelines:** Victoria sent the edited version of the guidelines to Lisa on 2/4/2025 shortly after the meeting.
- b) **Update of By-Laws for Special Revenue Fund Use:** Irene read to the Board the final version of the amended by-laws, specifically concerning the use of the special revenue fund, the wording of which had been voted on in December and submitted to the town. The Board approved unanimously the finalization of the change to the by-laws after Ellen Gillon so moved and Ann Lewis seconded the motion.
- c) **Events and Activities:** Please see the Director's Report. Irene also asked the Board what they thought of holding some evening activities from time to time to draw in some of the younger members of our senior community. There was some discussion and the topic will probably be raised again.

7. Suggestions for Next Regular Meeting: none at this time

8. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is March 4 @ 10 a.m.

9. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 11:08

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk