

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, **October 5, 2021**, in the Senior Center craft room.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Ann Lewis, Crystal Gephardt, Carl Linkkila, Ellen Gillon, 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 Jeanette Haines and Catherine Dietrichsen.

- 2. Audience for Citizens:** Juan Roman was present to listen, and was particularly interested in the Affordable Housing discussion and in the Board's functioning in light of his potential candidacy for the Board of Selectmen.
- 3. Secretary's Report:** the Board reviewed the draft minutes of the Meeting of September 7, 2021. Ann Lewis moved to accept the minutes, which was then seconded by Crystal and approved by the Board, with Ellen Gillon abstaining as she did not attend said meeting.
- 4. Time Change of Meeting:** The October meeting is considered a special meeting due to the time change from 9:30 to 10:00. This change occurred because the Lisa had a conflict due to a Center activity. Carl Linkkila made a motion to change the meeting time for the rest of the year in order to resolve this conflict, which was then seconded by Dawn Gilbert and was approved unanimously. Irene will notify the Town Clerk of this change for the record.
- 5. Assistant Director Action:** The Board discussed the hiring of the new Assistant Director and the consensus was that Linda Grindle would be the best candidate. Ann Lewis asked Lisa to state for the record her reasons and Lisa stated that Linda already volunteers many hours at the Center, she knows the systems and processes, and is highly capable. She is a hard worker and well-liked by the seniors. Carl made a motion to accept her as the candidate and Shirley seconded the motion, which was then accepted unanimously.
- 6. Appointment of Permanent Board Member and Replacement Alternate:** Ellen Gillon has been appointed by the Board to fill the seat left vacant by Neil Muckenhoupt. The Board discussed finding a replacement alternate Member and several suggestions were made: Janice Godaire, Ellen Mott, Susan (a new Chaplin St resident looking to get

involved in the community) and Joyce St. Lawrence. The Board will speak to these potential alternates.

- 7. Correspondence:** Lisa Kegler provided the Board with copies of a letter from Mary Landeck who has resigned from running the “Sit and Stretch” exercise classes at the Senior Center due to concerns about COVID-19. The Director and several Board members had tried to allay her concerns to make her comfortable through various methods in compliance with Eastern Highlands and the Town (Zoom participation, for example), but she preferred to resign and continue the classes independently, solely by Zoom. Lisa Kegler will step up to continue the exercise classes in person using a different program developed with the help of the Lebanon Sr. Center, which will be called “Fit and Fun”. This change will be announced in the November newsletter and was passed by the Board after a motion was made by Ann Lewis and seconded by Ellen Gillon. It was also mentioned that Angie Jacques might potentially take on a yoga and meditation class for the Senior Center.
- 8. Director’s Report:**
Cash on hand: \$287.44
Special revenue account: \$30,626.00
Membership status: 347 members
Dues collection: dues are still waived due to the pandemic until the end of 2021. \$300 in dues have been paid anyway
- 9. Activities and Other Outreach:** A flu shot clinic will take place at the Senior Center this month. There are spaces for up to 60 people to get vaccinated. An acupuncture and Tai Chi work shop is coming up on October 18th. The watercolor class is going very well, as are the massage therapy and hairdresser visits. Two craft classes are scheduled, and lunches are also going very well. A trip to the Newport Playhouse is scheduled for December. Some discussion of potentially combining trips with other area Senior Centers was discussed, including sharing vehicles through NECOG and having seniors sign up for vacant spots in other towns’ trips and activities (Mansfield, for example) that are not completely filled by their own seniors.
- 10. Landscaping and Pollinator Pathways:** Lisa is still waiting to hear from Sandy about the Library’s landscaper and how much it would cost to combine their services for the Library and Senior Center. Ada Snodgrass of Joshua’s Trust has contacted Sandy to discuss the Pollinator Pathway gardens for the Library and Senior Center. There was some discussion about the benefits of native species vs. imported perennials and which would most benefit native insect species, but in either case the Board was interested in how and who would do the maintenance of the garden. Some members said they would volunteer to help with weeding, but there also needs to be some ongoing maintenance that will be assured.

11. Affordable Housing in Chaplin:

The initial meeting of the Steering Committee on Affordable Housing for Chaplin which was slated for September 30th was postponed. Irene stated that the Chaplin Affordable Housing Plan received a 15k grant for research of the plan (with NECOG) and that every town needs a housing plan for affordable housing, and that it needs to be investigated which process works best for Chaplin within these statutory rules. There is still grant money left.

Every town needs a certain percentage of housing to fall into the ‘affordable’ category. How can Chaplin reach this percentage? Irene stated that a five year plan to review the documentation and reach this housing goal is being considered, and that a public hearing is also needed. Jim Larkin from NECOG wants to meet in November after the elections. In the interim it was suggested a survey should be conducted to find out what kind of housing and how much would be needed in our area. A FEMA funding option which might give a grant for building resilient infrastructure, particularly in disadvantaged communities was mentioned. Irene gave the information on the grant to Bill Rose’s assistant Sue, who will be looking into it.

Irene stated once again that the former Pine Acres area of fifteen acres might be a very valuable area to look into potentially developing and give a big advantage to the town. Ann Lewis asked if the FEMA grant was aimed more at providing infrastructure resilient to climate change or to economic change. Juan Roman requested the information on which statute was involved (CGS 8-30J) and asked how the percentage of affordable housing would be determined (% of housing stock? % by population?, etc.).

12. Next Meeting Date: November 2, 2021 @ 10 a.m.

13. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk