

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 7, 2026**, in the Senior Center craft room.

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

1. Irene called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Victoria was seated for Carl Linkkila and Joyce was seated for Ann Lewis.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
3. **Audience for Citizens:** Linden Weiss was present.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Board Meeting of March 3, 2026 were approved unanimously after a motion was initiated by Ellen and seconded by Dawn.
5. **Old Business**

5a. Director's Report:

- a. Special Revenue Fund: \$38,163.98
- b. Cash on Hand: \$500.00
- c. Membership: 432
- d. Dues collected for 2026 thus far: \$1,095.00

Lisa gave the Board a detailed breakdown of the Center's use and activities for March 2026

- There were 937 individual visits to the Center in March.
- 509 lunches were served.

Her breakdown included the number of participants in all of the Center's regular activities, the most popular being: 132 doing 'Fit and Fun,' 72 playing Mahjongg, and 62 in the breakfast club. There were many other small, well-attended activities ranging from bingo to pickleball. She noted that, due to the warmer weather and fewer snow days, more people had been able to come in.

The Center's Chili Cookoff Challenge was once again a success, with more than 80 people in attendance. The St. Patrick's Day lunch was also popular, with 52 attendees and live music by Bruce John. The annual Plant & Grinder Sale fundraiser is slated for May 9th and preparations are well underway. Lisa let the Board know about a free dental clinic taking place at E.O. Smith on 17-18 April, which might provide services for underserved seniors. She also discussed a possible trip to Elizabeth Park to view the rose gardens later in the summer, which may also include a picnic lunch. She was concerned how the upcoming parking lot construction at the Center might affect the gathering point and/or accessibility. On the afternoon of September 22nd there will be a "Family Feud" style game at the Center sponsored by Day Kimball Hospital, which will address mitigating fall-risk in a fun way.

Lisa mentioned that a church in Hampton had asked if the Senior Center would be willing to have a shoe donation box placed in the Center for a couple of months. Irene moved to reject the proposal and Ellen seconded this motion, the presence of donation boxes, particularly for a religious charity, was discussed by the Board at length. The Board had rejected the idea of a donation shed that had been proposed last month for various reasons, including the established mission of the Center, and would like to be consistent. The Board's policy is also to avoid sponsoring specific religious or political topics in the Center's space. A vote was taken after the discussion and the Board decided unanimously to say "no, thank you".

5b. Art Committee Update

Ellen informed the Board that the artist slated for April had been unable to show their work, so the March artist has kindly left their work displayed for now. Joyce and Victoria thanked Ellen for taking point on finding artists lately. The committee was uncertain about the summer schedule and firm dates because the Center may have to close for the parking lot construction at some point.

May: Lyn Johnson (TBD)

June: open

July: Scott Rhodes

Victoria informed the art committee that she will be taking a hiatus from the committee through spring/summer due to travel, but will contact Bruce Raymond about the possibility of showing in June or September. Victoria also suggested the idea of making a permanent collection of donated paintings for the Senior Center that could be hung in the space at times when we don't have an outside artist's work available. Lisa was unsure there would be space to store these works.

5c. Facility Update: Lisa informed the Board that the button and post for the wheelchair accessible entrance to the Center had toppled over due to a frost heave and is being repaired. She also mentioned that the Center's chairs required cleaning again. She would also like to get the

carpets and the grout in the bathrooms cleaned. At this point it is unclear whether the Center's maintenance budget would be able to cover the costs or whether they would need to come from the Special Revenue. Lisa will get bids for these cleaning services and present them to the Board at the next meeting.

6. New Business:

Lisa is seeking additional volunteers for the Plant & Grinder Sale fundraiser next month. Volunteers thus far (this is not comprehensive; other Board members have also offered to help):

Dawn: raffle sales

Robin/Joyce: grinder prep/wrapping

Shirley: money collection

Crystal: volunteered her son to help after school and on the Saturday with lifting plant flats and possibly as cashier.

Janice: totaling up people's purchases ahead of the cashiers

Victoria: hand-lettering 2k plant stakes

Rick/Neil/the Swarts: helping as needed

6c. Correspondence: none additional at this time.

- 7. Suggestions for Next Regular Meeting:** details of the Plant & Grinder Sale, upcoming trips.
- 8. Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting is May 5, 2026 @ 10 a.m.
- 9. Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 10:22.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk