

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 3, 2026**, in the Senior Center craft room.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Robin Hoagland, Ellen Gillon, Janice Godaire, Crystal Gebhardt; 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 10:00 a.m. Joyce was seated for Ann Lewis, Victoria was seated for Carl Linkkila, and Sally was seated for Dawn Gilbert.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
3. **Audience for Citizens:** Linden Weiss was there as an observer.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Board Meeting of December 2, 2025 were approved unanimously after a motion was initiated by Ellen and seconded by Janice.
5. **Old Business**

5a. Director's Report:

- a. Special Revenue Fund: \$40,226.16 as of 12/25
- b. Cash on Hand: \$132
- c. Membership: 426
- d. Dues collected for 2026 thus far: \$885

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

- There were 620 individual visits to the Center in January.
- 281 lunches were served.

Her breakdown included the number of participants in all of the Center's regular activities, the most popular being: 96 doing 'Fit and Fun,' 46 playing Mahjongg, and 53 in the breakfast club. There were many other small, well-attended activities ranging from bingo to pickleball. She noted that, due to closures for the frigid, snowy weather, fewer people had been able to come in.

There was a successful blood pressure class. Stacy Gendreau will be starting reflexology sessions for the seniors, which will take place in the same room the massage currently uses. Irene ascertained that Lisa is checking that the practitioners who provide therapeutic activities such as massage, podiatry, and reflexology are all fully credentialed.

The Cell Phone Help class is still ongoing. Upcoming are: Valentine's Lunch with music by Al Raybeck, a Chili Cookoff on the evening of March 14th, and a jointly advertised music event at the library on March 7th featuring the band "Goodbye Irene".

Lisa provided the Board with a detailed breakdown of the proposed budget and mentioned that she would like to stop circulating hard copies of the newsletter by mail due to increasing postage costs and the fact that it is available online on at least three different platforms, as well as in hard copy at both the library and the Center itself. The difference in the bottom line would instead go towards the Center's maintenance budget, which sometimes has had shortfalls. Janice moved to approve the budget with said changes, Ellen seconded that, and, after some discussion, the Board passed the motion unanimously.

A woman from the St. Pauly Textile charity approached Lisa and asked her if the Senior Center would be interested in hosting a clothing donation shed which would be used for charitable causes. The Board discussed the complications of this, and, due to the historic district and the aesthetic issues of a non-conforming modern shed, as well as the risk of unwanted dumping of items creating unsightliness, did not favor it. After this discussion Irene moved to refuse this offer and Sally seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

5b. Art Committee Update

Ellen informed the Board that the art space is booked until May, with the following artists and points of contact:

March: Linda Lasko (Ellen as contact)

April: Linda Gorman

May: Lyn Johnson

In January some complications arose with an artist taking a great deal of time to hang their show outside of Senior Center Hours. There was also a small controversy over the type of subject that was acceptable to hang in the Senior Center's space. Victoria volunteered to re-draft the guidelines and waiver for exhibiting artists to include guidelines as to what art would not be appropriate in the public space (nudity, highly political subjects or political figures, religious art of any denomination). She also will re-draft the waiver to mention in bold that the hanging of the shows must take place within the Senior Center's regular hours, or at least with the continued assistance/observation of a Board Member.

5c. Chorus Update: Ellen stated that the chorus has explored many genres and venues. She held a holiday singalong in December and a Broadway singalong in January. Bruce Johns will lead Irish songs in March. The Board discussed that they did not want to oversaturate with programming to cause the Seniors to lose crucial social time, and everyone agreed about one-a-month would be an appropriate timing for entertainment programs, be they music or other.

5d. Facility Update: Lisa reported that the facility has been doing well other than the common problem of ice-dams forming on the roof following the big snowstorm and backing up into the inside of the Senior Center. She said they were able to shovel off some of the roof, which has temporarily helped alleviate the issue.

6. New Business: none at this time.

6c. Correspondence: a thank-you card from Joyce was circulated.

7. Suggestions for Next Regular Meeting: discussion of preparation for the upcoming plant/grinder sale fundraiser.

8. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is March 3, 2026 @ 10 a.m.

9. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 10:45

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk