

**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 Thursday, **April 8, 2021**, remotely via the GoToMeeting app and at the Senior Center.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Jeanette Haines, Catherine Dietrichsen, Walter Zlotnick, and Crystal Gephardt; alt. Dawn Gilbert, Director Lisa Kegler, and Victoria Northrop (recording clerk).

As a meeting where the public would normally be present, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting was audio-broadcast through the “GoToMeeting” app for any interested member of the public in accordance with CT Executive Order 7s.

**1. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.**

Alternate Dawn Gilbert was seated for Carl Linkkila. **Audience for Citizens:** None present.

**2. Secretary’s Report:** the board reviewed the draft minutes of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Dawn made a motion to approve them, which was seconded by Jeanette and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Correspondence:** An e-mail came from Zach from Eastern Highlands. Lisa had asked whether outdoor activities could begin to take place, which Eastern Highlands approved with social distancing and masks. Lisa says she will begin to hold craft classes in this manner.

**4. Director’s Report:**

**Cash on hand:** \$197.06

**Special revenue account:** \$26,322.24

**Membership status:** 316 members

**Dues collection:** dues have been waived due to the pandemic for this year. Some people have been sending dues anyway, and \$80.00 have arrived.

**5. Review of upcoming activities:**

Lisa Kegler stated that the curbside lunches are a huge success and, 40-70 lunches are been served. Lisa wanted to thank all the volunteers and cooks profusely. The Sit & Stretch on Zoom is going well on Tues-Thurs and tends to have 8-10 people in attendance. Zoom Yoga is happening on Mondays at 11. Tai-Chi has also begun on Tuesday in the library meeting room and on Zoom. Craft classes happen twice/month on Zoom, with about 10 attending. This will be moved outside soon. A walking club happens on Saturdays (5 participants so far).

The Fisherman's breakfast will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 6.30-8.30 am, curbside only, with a full menu for \$5.00. 45-60 participants have been anticipated in conjunction with the Fishing Derby. There will also be collaboration with the library for Horizon Wings owl demonstration on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Mother's Day plant and grinder sale will take place on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 10-12.30. Plants will be sold, and pre-ordered grinders sold. The center could use some volunteers for this. Irene spoke to Sandy Horning, and she will provide information on Pollinator Pathways, which encourages planting native plants to help with bee populations. Irene will ask her to present some information on the day of the sale, potentially. Irene volunteered to help on the day of the sale, as did Catherine.

A new heating system will be put into the community room, which will be quieter and allow more activities in the space. Irene is interested in creating an arts and cultural center; Irene hopes to incorporate the Senior Center in this process, potentially by having art shows in the space. Irene will send out copies to the board concerning the 10 year review which includes mention of the Senior Center and its uses.

- 6. Reopening Discussion:** Irene asked if Lisa has a date for the Center reopening. Lisa responded that, as of March 19<sup>th</sup> the new guidelines arrived from the Health Department. September 1<sup>st</sup> will be the earliest that CT senior centers resume indoor activities. Lisa plans to customize these guidelines to our center and then gain the approval of the Health Department by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 7. Review space usage and guidelines in light of present and future needs:** Lisa says that, going forward, having a well ventilated outdoor space is something that the Center will want. There is already a space behind the center with a shed and a raised garden, and Lisa thinks that a designated space should be created there with a tanbark floor, picnic tables and easily moved outdoor chairs. Lisa created a drawing of the possible space. Catherine asked if the COVID money would be available to create the outdoor space. Irene said it will be discussed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman. Jeanette asked about the project's timeline. Lisa said it could be carried out fairly quickly, and the Selectman had already agreed. Crystal asked if people could bring their own chairs, which would reduce the need for cleaning. Irene suggested that people could do both. Lisa said that spray sanitizer would probably work on any of them. This project will be an ongoing discussion. The board voted to support this creation of an outdoor space, Jeanette made a motion in its support, Catherine seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.
- 8. Survey to reach out to seniors:** Ann Lewis could not attend the meeting, unfortunately, so Irene asked Lisa for any information on the survey that had been sent out. Thus far there have been about 60 responses, and Lisa says she's still receiving more responses and would like to keep the survey open longer. Most people are interested in weekday

activities and trips. Watercolor classes/painting groups were popular. Exercise classes also are popular so far, massage, crafts, etc.

- 9. Aging in Chaplin discussion and senior housing update:** Irene began with the Senior housing update. She is preparing a draft. We currently do not have Senior housing in town, and people do want it, and demand will increase particularly in the next 10 years. Most of the affordable housing in town is needed by Seniors, and our town demographic is 50% over age 45. They are looking for other ways of making housing available which might be a faster process than going through the state. Perhaps a co-operative alternative co-funded by unit owners. The aging-in-place idea is also important for some, and needs to be explored. Dawn asked if something is to be built, where would they have in mind? Irene is interested in a co-operative approach. If people pool ideas and assets, it might be a force multiplier, rather than waiting to go through applications to the state and design, etc. Irene would like to create a discussion group for the creation of this project. Crystal said she would be interested.

**10. Next Meeting Date:** May 4, 2021 @ 9.30

**11. Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned 10.06 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk