

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

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Robin Hoagland, Ellen Gillon, Ann Lewis, Carl Linkkila, Dawn Gilbert, Janice Godaire, and alternates Sally Ireland, Joyce St. Lawrence, 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 10:02 a.m. Sally Ireland was seated for Crystal Gebhardt.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
3. **Audience for Citizens:** Pete Kegler was present but Irene asked to address his topic under the Facility Update under Old Business.
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Board Meeting of October 7, 2025 were approved, after a motion was initiated by Janice and seconded by Shirley.
5. **Old Business**

5a. Director's Report:

- a. Special Revenue Fund: \$44,791.98 (as of 9/30/25)
- b. Cash on Hand: \$163.51
- c. Membership: 422
- d. Dues collected for 2025: \$2000. Lisa stated that any dues paid henceforth this year would count towards 2026.

Lisa gave the Board a detailed breakdown of the Center's use and activities October 2025

- There were 887 individual visits to the Center in October.
- 379 lunches were served.

Her detailed breakdown included the number of participants in all of the Center's regular activities, the most popular being: 135 doing 'Fit and Fun,' 69 in the breakfast club, and 55 playing Bingo. There were many other small, well attended activities ranging from

mahjongg to karaoke. Light therapy and the cell-phone help class are becoming increasingly popular.

Lisa informed the Board that the bus trip to the Reservoir followed by lunch at the Salem Cross Inn was a success, and 51 people participated. The vaccine clinic the Center offered was also popular, with 37 people taking part. The Senior Center participated in the town's Trunk-or-Treat on 1 November and gave out the candy they'd collected. The annual Country Breakfast will take place on the 26th of November from 8-9:30 and will cost 8\$ for a full spread.

5b. Art Committee Update

- For Nov-Dec: a collaborative show will take place once again of the artists who displayed their work over the course of 2025 and past years.
- Victoria updated the guidelines and rules for exhibiting artists and the waiver as per Lisa's request. The art committee is stepping into a more active role to take pressure off Lisa as an organizer.
- We are already booking artists to exhibit into 2026.

5c. Chorus Update: Ellen will continue with her karaoke sessions once a month at lunchtime. She is also organizing a holiday sing-along for December and a Broadway tunes sing-along for January.

5d. Facility Update: Lisa and Pete Kegler put their heads together and came up with a solution to the issue of placing a cover over the outdoor grilling area. Pete presented the plan to the Board, which involves pouring a concrete pad and installing a permanent carport-style roof over the grilling area in accordance with the Health Department's request. They investigated the cost of the parts and installation and, with some donations of time and materials, as well as the assistance of the DPW, came up with a minimum cost of \$1629.00. The Board then voted unanimously in favor of allocating up to \$2000 for the project from the Special Revenue Fund after a motion was made by Ellen and seconded by Dawn.

6. New Business

6a. The Board received a letter from Adele Swart that she's drafting to send to the Board of Selectmen. The letter included a request for greater communication between the BOS and the townsfolk, as well as the results of the informal survey the Library and Friends of the Library conducted at Chaplin Day and beyond. Adele asked whether the Senior Center Board would co-sign the letter.

After some discussion, Shirley Rakos pointed out to the Board that this does not fall under the purview of the Senior Center's mission statement. The majority of the Board stated that they consider the existing platforms for citizens to communicate with the

Board of Selectmen to be sufficient (e.g. the Annual Town Meeting, the ability of any citizen to attend monthly meetings of the town's Boards and Committees, as well as the ability to directly correspond with the Board of Selectmen).

Irene then moved that the Senior Center Board decline to sign the letter, due to the fact that it falls outside the Center's mission statement. This motion was seconded by Shirley and passed in a vote. Irene stated that she will contact Adele and tell her that the Senior Center Board has declined.

6b. Annual Report: Lisa submitted the draft of the Annual Report to the Board with updated employees, membership, and budget; she also included important summaries of the programs (educational, health, entertainment, and lunch programs). Sally Ireland moved to approve the Annual Report and Ellen Gillon seconded. The Board then approved it unanimously.

6c. Discussion of Holiday Plans and gifts:

The Board discussed the annual thank-you gifts that they would allocate **from the Special Revenue Fund** as a kindness to those who have worked and volunteered tirelessly for the Center's benefit throughout the year. The following gift cards will be given after Shirley purchases them on behalf of the Board:

Jake Garrison: 150

Ben Waite: 150

Dave Stone: 200

Rick Nichols: 200

Neal Waite: 200

Robin Hoagland: 200

Lynn Grindle: 600

Joyce St Lawrence: 600

Bob Grindle: 800

Lisa Kegler: 1000

After Irene and Shirley so moved, the Board unanimously voted for this allocation.

Other Holiday plans that are already in motion are the Holiday Sing-along and a potential holiday lunch trip.

6d. Meeting Dates for 2026

The following dates have been set for the regular Board meetings of the Senior Center in 2026:

Jan – none	Feb 3
Mar 3	April 7
May 5	June 2
July – none	Aug 4
Sep 1	Oct 6
Nov 3	Dec 1

7. Suggestions for Next Regular Meeting: Discussion of the holiday lunch/trip, potentially at Grill 37 in Pomfret.

8. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is December 2, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

9. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 10:50

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk