

**Chaplin Senior Center**

**Board of Directors**

**132 Chaplin Street**

**Chaplin, CT 06235**

The Board of Directors for the Chaplin Senior Center met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, **December 7, 2021**, in the Senior Center craft room.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Ann Lewis, Jeanette Haines, Cathy Dietrichsen, Ellen Gillon, Crystal Gebhardt, alternates Janice Godaire, Robin Hoagland, and Dawn Gilbert, Director Lisa Kegler, and Victoria Northrop (recording clerk).

**1. Irene Schein called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

Alternates Janice Godaire and Dawn Gilbert were seated for Walt Zlotnick and Carl Linkkila (Carl arrived late and contributed to the meeting but was not officially seated).

**2. Audience for Citizens:** None present

**3. Secretary's Report:** the Board reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting of November 2, 2021. Jeanette Haines moved to accept the minutes, which was then seconded by Dawn and passed unanimously.

**4. Additions/Changes to Agenda: Holiday Bonuses** Shirley Rakos asked to add to the agenda a discussion of allocating holiday bonuses to the Director, Assistant Director, Chef and kitchen assistant of the Senior Center and to the DPW helpers, as is generally done. Crystal made a motion to grant bonuses to the aforementioned people, which was seconded by Ellen and passed, with Dawn abstaining. The Board then discussed the amounts and manner of granting said bonuses. The volunteers to the Center stated that they had no expectation of receiving a bonus. Cash bonuses are to be paid from the general fund and reimbursed from the Special Revenue fund. Gift card bonuses are to be paid from the Special Revenue fund directly. In the end the following bonuses were agreed upon:

For the DPW workers it was agreed to give gift cards of \$150 to Dave, \$100 to Jake, and \$50 to Ben (a recent hire). Lisa will decide where to purchase these cards (suggestions of Home Depot and Willard's were made) and will pay for them from Special Revenue. Ann Lewis moved to accept this, Jeanette Haines seconded it, and the motion carried.

For the Chef, it was decided to give a cash bonus of \$500 + taxes (Irene moves, Crystal 2nds, passes unanimously). For the Assistant chef, \$400 + taxes (Irene moves, Shirley 2nds, passes). For the Director: \$750 + taxes (Irene moves, Jeanette 2nds, passes) For the Assistant Director: \$400 + taxes (Irene moves, Ellen 2nds, passes). Lisa will carry out the dispersal of these funds.

5. **Correspondence:** Lisa presented a card a member had sent praising the efforts of the kitchen staff.
6. **Meeting Dates for 2022:** Irene proposed the following meeting dates for 2022: January – no meeting. February 1<sup>st</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, July – no meeting, August, 2<sup>nd</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Ann Lewis moved to accept these dates, Dawn seconded the motion and it passed.

7. **Director's Report:**

**Cash on hand:** \$400.99

**Special revenue account:** \$28,481.21

**Membership status:** 349 members

**Dues collection:** \$435 total. Dues collection will resume in January, with a \$10/yr. cost for residents and a \$15/yr. cost for non-residents.

8. **Activities and Other Outreach:** The Center is searching for a new watercolor or drawing instructor to continue the art classes, as the current instructor is stopping due to health issues. The genealogy program in cooperation with the Library went well, with 28pp attending. Ancestry.com usage has not taken off yet, but it's only been active a short time. A Murder Mystery in a Box event will take place soon, as well as a craft class on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December (grape vine wreath snowman). Gingerbread house building, acupuncture, haircuts, massage, pickleball, podiatrist, and exercise classes are all being offered and getting good participation. Tai Chi is less well received and will be discontinued. A Christmas lunch is planned.
9. **Landscaping, Painting and Shed Roof:** The materials for the new shed roof are in the shed, awaiting installation in the spring. It is TBD whether it will be done with volunteers (liability will need to be addressed) or with a professional installer. The landscaping is still up in the air, as there is less urgency during the winter. Lisa spoke to the painter on December 7<sup>th</sup> and he will be coming to give a proposal for the interior painting work in the following week.

10. **Affordable Housing in Chaplin:**

Irene informed the Board that, per CT State statute, they have hired NECOG with grant money and are creating a steering committee and plan. The committee includes Irene, Dawn, Catherine, Doug Dubitsky, Bill Rose, Juan Roman, Ken Fortier, and Jim Larkin of NECOG. Doug Dubitsky described integration and assistance to low income people as the state's goal for these developments. Chaplin's recent change to zoning regulations allows the addition of accessory apartments to existing properties, which may help increase percentage of affordable housing stock. The goal is 10% of housing to be affordable, a percentage which no Connecticut town meets at this time. For Chaplin, a large part of the

demand for affordable housing comes from seniors. Irene is optimistic that a plan report will be published by February of 2022. Robin asked what type of senior housing is ideally the goal, and Irene responded that the vision is of a multi-use 'village' for elderly residents, possibly somewhere like the Pine Acres area. A public hearing will happen at some point on this topic.

**Next Meeting Date:** February 1, 2022 @ 10 a.m.

**11. Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk