

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, **December 2, 2025**, in the Senior Center craft room.

Members present: Chairperson Irene Schein, Shirley Rakos, Robin Hoagland, Ellen Gillon, Ann Lewis, Dawn Gilbert, Crystal Gebhardt; alternates 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. Joyce was seated for Carl Linkkila and Victoria was seated for Janice Godaire.

2. **Additions to the Agenda:** None

3. **Audience for Citizens:**

Therese Smith was in attendance to make a presentation to the Board about potentially involving the Senior Center (and its space) in the process of joining a nation-wide, government and corporate funded middle-school program called “After School All-Stars” to help single parents in particular with pre- and post- school-day care. She had heard from a third party that the Senior Center was considering expanding its space and wanted to know if the Board would be interested in a potential dual-use expansion of the physical facility funded through a grant.

The Board listened to her presentation and let her know that the Senior Center is not currently looking to expand/construct new space, but recommended that she contact the Board of Selectmen to find out if the extant Community Room might be a viable space to incorporate into such a program. The Board also recommended other contacts who might be more helpful and more on-mission, such as charter schools and the town’s middle school.

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Board Meeting of November 4, 2025 were approved, after a motion was initiated by Ellen and seconded by Victoria.

5. **Old Business**

- 5a. **Director's Report:**

- a. Special Revenue Fund: \$42,549.40

- b. Cash on Hand: \$150.53

- c. Membership: 423

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 for November 2025

- There were 797 individual visits to the Center in October.
- 436 lunches were served.

Her detailed breakdown included the number of participants in all of the Center's regular activities, the most popular being: 98 doing 'Fit and Fun,' 41 playing Mahjongg, and 40 in the breakfast club. There were many other small, well-attended activities ranging from bingo to yoga to karaoke.

The country breakfast fundraiser was a success, with 64 participants. The event raised \$377 after expenses. Music provided by Jack and Duke was also a success, with 30 attending, and the Artists' Open Studio sessions drew in about 90 people to visit and purchase paintings, prints, and crafts from the Senior Center's art exhibition.

In December the Artists' Open Studio exhibit will continue. There will be a wreath decoration session on the 11th of December (10\$ cost for materials). Lisa and the Center are partnering with the Recreation Commission for a holiday celebration in Garrison Park on 14 December, which will include hay rides, fresh-baked cookies, hot cocoa, crafts, and some lovely luminaria, as well as a visit from Santa Claus. The Center will also host a Christmas Lunch and magic show and a lunch out at Georgina's Restaurant.

5b. Art Committee Update

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

January: Gail Miller (Joyce as contact)

February: Greg Cariglia (Ellen as contact)

March: Linda Lasko (Ellen as contact)

April: Bruce Raymond (Victoria as contact)

Joyce asked for volunteers for the weekend of December 6-7 for the next session of Artists' Open Studio and several Board members stepped forward to help cover the hours.

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 10th and a Broadway tunes sing-along for January.

5d. Facility Update: Lisa reported that the outdoor grilling area has been brought into compliance with the recommendations from the inspector and looks great and functions well. Site prep was completed and the concrete pad was poured and cut, then the structure was erected,

all with the help of Pete, Freddy, Rick, and Neal Waite. The total for all parts and labor came to \$1778.38, well within the budget allotted by the Board in November. Volunteers were of great assistance, and an outdoor heater was also donated. Topsoil and a bit of landscaping will be added in spring.

6. New Business

6a. Crystal informed the Board that the Recreation Commission had been unable to fund a new liner for the seasonal ice-skating rink that is poured at the Garrison Park pavilion during the winter and asked if the Senior Center Board would be interested in making a donation to the cause, as some senior grandparents like to take their grandchildren ice-skating there. After a brief discussion, the Board decided that this does coincide with the Center's mission statement and Ann Lewis moved that the Board approve a \$350 donation towards the project from the Special Revenue Fund. The motion was seconded by Dawn Gilbert and passed unanimously. Crystal said she will contact the Rec Commission to let them know and sort out the details.

6b. Discussion of Holiday Plans: Please see the Director's Report for specifics.

6c. Correspondence:

In addition to Therese Smith's aforementioned presentation, a woman specializing in gold and silver sales approached Lisa to see if the Center would be interested in organizing an event where the seniors could bring in un-used jewelry to sell and she would subsequently donate part of her profit to the Center. The Board and Director felt that this would not be appropriate for the Center as it is too commercial and has the potential for taking advantage of the seniors, so the idea will be rejected.

7. Suggestions for Next Regular Meeting: none at this time

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

9. Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 10:47

Minutes submitted by Victoria Northrop, recording clerk