

**DRAFT MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SENIOR CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD
135 BOLTON ROAD
VERNON, CONNECTICUT 06066**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

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The September 27, 2022 meeting of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Board was held at 135 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by Edward Slattery at 10:01 am.

ROLL CALL

Edward Slattery did a roll call of members. The following Advisory Board members were present: Maryann Hopowiec, Wesley Shorts, Robert Audet, Pamela Faircloth, Patricia Noblet, Edward Slattery, and Nancy Sirois. Also present: William Campbell, Town Council Liaison, Carole Slattery, Advocate, Maureen Gabriele, Director, and Beth Bates, Receptionist. Absent from the meeting were Ronald Kane and Janet DiTarando.

The minutes of the August Advisory Board meeting were reviewed by members. A suggestion was made by Patricia Noblet to change wording within the title of the document from the word "agenda" to "minutes". A motion was made by Edward Slattery to approve the minutes as amended, and was seconded by Maryann Hopowiec. The motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Sheila Dunn was present for the Public Forum. Ms. Dunn was attending to observe the meeting and did not have any comments or concerns to discuss.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was given by Wesley Shorts. The following information was provided by Jeffrey O'Neill, Town of Vernon Finance Officer/Treasurer.

Senior Center Endowment

As of August 1, 2022

Beginning Balance-STIF	\$41,671.02
Bank Balance	\$ -
STIF Investment	\$ 25.00
Monthly Interest	\$ 78.44

Balance as of August 31, 2022	<u>\$41,774.46</u>
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Funds deposited in CT Short-Term Investment Fund. As of August 31, 2022, annual yield was 2.27%.

Edward Slattery opened the floor to questions concerning the finances; there were no questions. Patricia Noblet motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, and Maryann Hopowiec seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman did not have any business to report.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Maureen Gabriele welcomed Nancy Sirois as a new Advisory Board member.

Maureen gave the floor to Patricia Noblet to discuss the new Walking Group that meets weekly, led by Patricia Noblet and Janet DiTarando. Patricia reported that the group has been very popular and is running smoothly. The group walks various Rails to Trails within the town of Vernon, and the walks run from 9:00-10:00 am every Tuesday. Attendance is taken and reported to the Senior Center for input into the My Senior Center database. Measures are in place to ensure the safety of every member joining this group.

Maureen reported that Select Physical Therapy is working to provide regular staffing for the Fitness Center. Select has been providing temporary coverage daily allowing the Fitness Center to remain open to members, however permanent staff is needed to begin orientations for new members, and also to reinstate the Strength and Balance classes, which take place weekly on Thursdays and Fridays respectively.

Maureen reported that she has discussed the popularity of the pickleball courts with Mayor Champagne. It was determined by the Mayor and the Department of Public Works that there is no usable outdoor space at the Senior Center to construct an additional court. Discussion ensued regarding various options within the town that could accommodate additional courts both indoors and outdoors. Maureen reported that the ceiling height at the Senior Center prevents the option of creating a temporary indoor court in the Senior Center auditorium during the winter months.

Maureen discussed that September is National Senior Center month. In honor of this occasion, Mayor Champagne presented the Vernon Senior Center with a proclamation at the most recent Town Council meeting. Many staff and advisory board members attended the meeting to receive this honor from the Mayor. The proclamation is on display at the front desk, and pictures from the event were posted to the Vernon Senior Center at Bolton Road Facebook page. Maureen encouraged board members to visit the Facebook page to view posts regarding events at the Senior Center.

Maureen shared the many events that have taken place at the Senior Center this past month, including: two trips to the Old Mill English Tea Room, an Ask a Lawyer presentation, and an evening presentation about Louisa May Alcott. A Healthy at Home: Lunch and Learn program was rescheduled by the presenter, and will take place in October. Upcoming events include: a Square Dance Hoedown, an osteoporosis presentation, and various Medicare presentations.

Maureen informed the board that the October calendar will be available online this week. Unforeseen circumstances forced the publication to be submitted later than anticipated.

Maureen shared a sample of upcoming events for October and November. These include: a concert with dessert featuring the "Silk City Strays" from Manchester, CT, a bus trip to the Huntington Homestead in Scotland, CT with lunch at Lakeview restaurant in Coventry, CT, multiple Halloween activities and presentations, and Out-to-Lunch trips featuring Salem Cross Inn and Publick House in Massachusetts.

The free, year-long Diabetes Prevention Program will begin in October, and all members concerned about pre-diabetes and diabetes are encouraged to attend. The Senior Center will hold a Veterans Day Celebration in November; this will be open to Veterans and their spouses.

Edward Slattery asked if membership at the Senior Center is still growing. Maureen responded by informing the board that we are consistently processing a steady number of memberships each week. At this time, the Senior Center has over 3,000 members.

Wesley Shorts requested an update regarding the Kitchen Services Coordinator position that remains unfilled at this time. Maureen informed the board that she has presented an amended job description to the Town Administration in an attempt to attract qualified candidates, and to create the most effective situation for the Senior Center kitchen operations. The job will now be posted as two part-time positions. Creating two positions will allow for coverage when one individual is out due to illness or other circumstances. This will eliminate the need to cancel lunches, and will allow the lunch program to operate effectively. Discussion ensued.

Maureen presented the board with the financial report from July-mid September, 2022 for Senior Center expenses. Pamela Faircloth requested clarification for the "food expenses" category; Maureen explained that this is used for any non-catered food events that require the Senior Center to purchase food. Robert Audet asked for clarification of the fiscal year dates; Maureen explained that these dates run from July 1-June 30. Maureen stated that most accounts will be completely utilized, however no account has ever been overdrawn.

William Campbell asked if the Senior Center internet is consistently reliable. Maureen responded that at times it operates well, but it is not always consistent.

Wesley Shorts asked when coffee would be returning to the Senior Center cafe area. Maureen assured the board that this will be offered in the near future. Once staff is able to complete the shopping for supplies, coffee will resume. The cost for members to purchase a cup of coffee will be determined, but will likely be \$0.25 per cup.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

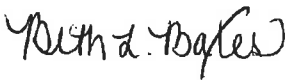
NEW BUSINESS

No new business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on October 25, 2022 @ 10:00 am. The meeting was adjourned by motion from Wesley Shorts at 10:40 am, and seconded by Nancy Sirois. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth L. Bates
Receptionist