

APPROVED

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

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

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
JAN 3 11:25 AM

The December 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 Acting Chairperson Patty Noblet at 10:02 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Acting Chairperson Patty Noblet did a roll call of members. The following Advisory Board members were present: Patty Noblet, Wesley Shorts, Maryann Hopowiec, Janet DiTarando, and Sheila Dunn. The following Advisory Board members were absent: Robert Audet, Pamela Faircloth, Carole Slattery, Edward Slattery, and Nancy Sirois. Also present were: Maureen Gabriele, Senior Center Director, William Campbell, Town Council Liaison, and Beth Bates, Senior Center Receptionist.

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PUBLIC FORUM

No members were present for the Public Forum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed from the November 15, 2022 Advisory Board Meeting. Wesley Shorts made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Maryann Hopowiec seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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 November 1, 2022	
Beginning Balance-STIF	\$41,969.79
Monthly Interest	\$ 132.89
Balance as of November 30, 2022	<u>\$42,102.68</u>

Funds deposited in CT Short-Term Investment Fund. As of November 30, 2022, the annual yield was 4.00%.

Janet DiTarando made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Maryann Hopowiec seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Maureen Gabriele welcomed new Advisory Board member, Sheila Dunn.

Maureen discussed the various holiday events that have taken place over the last month including: Holiday Luncheon featuring catering by Request-a-Chef and entertainment by Noah Lis, Holiday Sing-a-Long, Grossi Dance Performance, Winter Gnome games, Toys for Tikes, Yankee Swap, and Chorus Concert featuring the Senior Center Chorus-The Singing Sensations. All events were well attended and enjoyed by the Senior Center members.

Friendship Tours visited the Senior Center to discuss upcoming trips for 2023. Trip sign-ups will begin in January, and all trip information from Friendship Tours and Collette Tours can be found in the monthly newsletter.

AARP tax sign-ups will begin on January 9, 2023. Members are encouraged to sign up on January 9th, 11th, 17th, and 18th. Following these dates, sign-ups will be open to the general public. AARP receives a grant to provide free tax preparation, therefore no individual may be excluded from participating. By allowing members to sign up for two weeks in advance of the general public, we provide an opportunity for interested members to schedule a tax appointment. Patty Noblet asked various questions regarding this program and discussion ensued.

Maureen informed the Board that the January newsletter is available online at this time. Upcoming events include: Breakfast and Bingo, Laughter Presentation, a local author presentation by Senior Center member Hanna Perlstein Marcus discussing her books about her life in America following the Holocaust, a COVID booster clinic, a Seasonal Affective Disorder Presentation, and many fitness classes, including the addition of Cardio Drumming.

Maureen updated the Board on the hiring of a new Kitchen Services Coordinator. Danielle Grimaldi will be joining the Senior Center on January 3, 2023. Town Council also approved a part-time position for a Kitchen Assistant. A date for the start of lunches has not yet been determined. Volunteers will be contacted to assist with lunches once they resume. Lunches will be in-house only.

Patty Noblet questioned Maureen about her goals for 2023. Maureen responded that increasing membership and programs is an on-going goal that she is consistently working towards. Discussion ensued regarding increasing memberships, program offerings, and the possibility of hiring another Program Assistant to allow for programs in the evenings during the summer.

Maureen explained that adding programs is dependent upon availability of staff, instructors, and room locations within the facility.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report

OLD BUSINESS

The Advisory Board members asked for an update on the two benches that were ordered through Parks & Recreation to be placed along the Rails-to-Trails and at the Senior Center. Maureen Gabriele informed them that the benches will be ordered and put in place in the spring. Each bench will have a quotation engraved on a plaque; options are currently being reviewed in preparation for ordering the benches.

Sheila Dunn asked for a recap of the bench purchase as she is a new Advisory Board member and was not present for the initial discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

The Advisory Board reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2023. Wesley Shorts made a motion to approve the dates as presented. Janet DiTarando seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Wesley Shorts encouraged all members to review their contact information on the Advisory Contact Sheet, noting that some phone numbers and email addresses are incorrect. Maureen asked all members to send corrections directly to Diane Wheelock as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Wesley Shorts made a motion to adjourn at 10:56 A.M. Patty Noblet seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth L. Bates
Receptionist