



Maureen Gabriele
Director

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
19 MAR -5 AM 8:39

The February 26, 2019 meeting of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Board was held at 135 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carole Slattery at 9:35 a.m.

Attending the Advisory Board meeting were members: Maryann Hopowiec, Pat Iamonaco, Ronald Kane, Roxann Lannan, John Mytych, Wes Shorts, Edward Slattery, as well as, William Campbell, Town Council Liaison, Senior Center Director Maureen Gabriele, and Cynthia Maheu, Administrative Assistant. Absent from the meeting was William Tyler.

The minutes of the November 27, 2018 Advisory Board meeting were reviewed by the members present. A motion was made by Wes Shorts and seconded by Roxann Lannan for acceptance of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the December 18, 2018 Advisory Board meeting were reviewed by the members present. A motion was made by Ronald Kane and seconded by Pat Iamonaco for acceptance of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the January 22, 2019 Advisory Board meeting were reviewed by the members present. A motion was made by Wes Shorts and seconded by John Mytych for acceptance of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

No members present for the Public Forum.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Wes Shorts reported that all accounts are currently held with the Town of Vernon. The Town of Vernon, Finance Officer, Jeffrey O'Neill, is sending reports to him and Maureen Gabriele. The Short Term Investment Fund balance is \$27,611.95, the Subsequent Investment balance is \$11,142.94, and monthly interest is \$63.09. A motion was made by Roxann Lannan, and seconded by Maryann Hopowiec, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friends Group – William Campbell reported that he will contact Diane Wheelock, Town of Vernon, Executive Assistant, to receive a list of members. William Campbell said that they are looking to build a steering committee and establish a first meeting. He requested Senior Center Advisory members let him know if they are interested in serving on this committee or if they can recommend anyone who may be interested.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Membership – January 2019 was a very busy month with 88 new memberships. To date, 47 new members have registered in the month of February.

Programs – Despite the winter weather, the Senior Center was very busy during January and February. Maureen Gabriele distributed the March Newsletter to Advisory members. There will be an event planned in April 2019 to celebrate our one-year anniversary at the new location.

Winter Weather Closing Policy – Maureen Gabriele reviewed the Winter Weather Closing Policy with Advisory members. The Winter Weather Closing Policy follows the Town of Vernon Board of Education's closure policy. If the Town of Vernon schools are closed, due to inclement weather, the Senior Center is closed and all programs and transportation are canceled. Maureen Gabriele reached out to other area Senior Centers to review their Winter Weather Closing Policies. Similar to our policy, many of them followed their town's school closing policy as well. Discussion followed and Advisory members agreed that this policy protects the safety of Senior Center members and assists the Department of Public Works with snow removal on roads, town parking areas and sidewalks. Maryann Hopowiec motioned that no changes be made to the current Winter Weather Closing Policy. The motion was seconded by Wes Shorts. The motion carried unanimously.

AARP Tax Aide Program - Maureen Gabriele reviewed the procedures that are being followed to accommodate the AARP Tax Aide program. She commented that loss of valuable room space and the need for volunteers to schedule tax preparation appointments is a concern. Prime meeting space is used by the AARP Tax program four days per week. Maureen Gabriele would like to propose changes to the AARP Tax Aide program next year which may include; reducing the number of tax preparers, allowing seniors to sign-up for appointments first before the public,

and moving this program to a smaller meeting room. Discussion followed and it was decided that a joint meeting between town officials and the AARP Tax Program Coordinator be scheduled to discuss solutions for next year's tax season. Maureen Gabriele will report back to the Advisory Board at the March 2019 meeting.

Dr. Gopal Sarker with ECHN Medical Group – Maureen Gabriele reported that Dr. Sarker has been coming to the Senior Center two times per month, since September 2018, and has had limited appointments. Maureen Gabriele has a meeting scheduled with ECHN to discuss the continuance of this program. She will report back to the Advisory Board at the March 2019 meeting on whether this program will be continued.

Trips – Pat Iamonaco questioned if the Senior Center will be offering trips to the Foxwoods or Mohegan Sun Casinos. Maureen Gabriele commented that we've offered a Foxwoods Casino trip in the past. We recently had a trip to the new MGM Springfield Casino on February 23, 2019. Maureen Gabriele commented that future trips to the Connecticut casinos will be offered in the future.

Fitness Room – Maureen Gabriele reported that Fitness Assistant, Keith Johnson, is currently working on the Fitness Center layout and developing forms for the Fitness Center. Keith Johnson took the opportunity to visit surrounding town Senior Center Fitness Centers to review their policies and procedures. Several candidates have been interviewed for the Fitness Center Coordinator position, and two employment offers were made, however, both candidates turned down the position. The Town of Vernon's Human Resources department continues to advertise this position and Maureen Gabriele and Human Resources personnel continue to review applications.

Kitchen – Maureen Gabriele has spoken with the Community Renewal Team regarding a luncheon program at the Senior Center. To date, the Community Renewal Team is waiting for additional Grants to expand their program offerings. At this time, there are currently three locations in Vernon offering lunches through the Community Renewal Team. If we were to hire staff, the cost of meals would be higher than a Community Renewal Team meal.

Senior Center Bus – Maureen Gabriele reported that the new bus will arrive early summer.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No Chairman's report.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

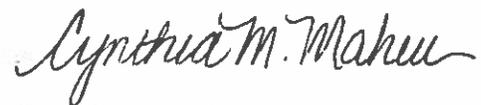
NEW BUSINESS

Advisory Board Vacancies – The Advisory Board may be in need of additional members due to pending resignations and 3-year term renewals. A listing of Advisory members and their term dates will be provided at the March 2019 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was moved by Wes Shorts and seconded by Pat Iamonaco at 11:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2019 at the Vernon Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia M. Maheu
Administrative Assistant