

Friends of Woodbury Senior Community Center, Inc.

Annual Meeting — October 4, 2024

In Attendance: D. Chester, S. Coates, B. Gardella, L. Grayson, B. Lyons, F. McDougall, N. Mackey, S. Sherman, C. Volage **Unable to Attend:** A. Campbell, L. Kearney, B. McManus
Guests: Paul Hinckley, Eileen LePage, Donna Gorton, Tom Zissu

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 by Claudette Volage.

Welcome and Introductions: *Friends* Board members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes: Motion by Nancy to approve minutes from the annual meeting on Oct. 6, 2023; 2nd Sharon. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy presented reports for Sept. 30, 2024 and Year-to-Date as of Sept. 2024. Several items were noted:

- An audit of the books will be conducted next week.
- The \$10,000 (*Friends'* portion) that was donated by O&G for a new AV System at the Senior Center has been transferred to the Town of Woodbury per the *Friends'* account.
- Fran and Nancy discussed the budget and proposed budget revisions for 2024-2025. It was explained to guests that insurance is needed for liability at our concerts.
- CT Community Foundation, where we just opened an Advised Fund account, has requested that we form an advisory committee of 3 people: the chair, co-chair, and treasurer. It was explained to guests that we opened this account to earn a better interest rate on our money.
- Sharon explained our 501c3 status to guests.

2023–2024 Accomplishments

- **Membership:** Deb reported that we have 140 members, 123 of whom are current and paid. This is an increase of 25 over last year's 98. Our goal for 2025 is 125. Donna Gorton said that volunteers at the front desk (S.C.) could distribute membership brochures and our "Services for Seniors" booklet.
- **Fundraising:** Claudette and Sharon met with O&G to secure a \$10,000 donation for the Center AV System. *Friends* further raised \$3,000 through Give Local, and we've received money from Woodbury Woman's Club, ION Bank, and Woodbury-Bethlehem Music Foundation. Donna Gorton said the Jr. Women's Club has a Community Enhancement Grant for specific projects.
- **Concerts:** 4 free concerts were held, with support from patrons and local organizations.
- The informational booklet, "Services Supporting Seniors" was distributed at various locations.
- Grab bars were installed in the restroom at the Senior Center.
- The *Friends'* By-Laws were updated.
- *Friends* participated in the "Thrive" event in October 2023.

2024–2025 Proposed Goals and Activities

- Continue to build membership during November/December membership drive.
- Continue to offer free concerts through grants, donations.
- Continue to identify needs of Senior Center, in collaboration with director, staff, and Commission for Seniors.

Nomination Slate

- The slate of candidates was presented:
Officers: Chair, A. Campbell; Vice-Chair, F. McDougall; Recording Secretary, B. Lyons; Corresponding Secretary, D. Chester; Treasurer, N. Mackey; (unofficial office: Deputy Treasurer, C. Volage)

Board of Directors: S. Coates, B. Gardella, L. Grayson, L. Kearney, B. McManus, S. Sherman, C. Volage

- Motion by Linda to approve slate; 2nd Bonnie. Approved.

Remarks from Director of Senior Services, Loryn Ray

- She noted that Kathleen Horvath, Program Assistant, will be leaving Oct. 19 to take a new job.
- She thanked *Friends* for our contribution to the new AV System at the Center, and explained that the request for a partition for the Activity Room is on hold, as it will cost \$34,000 and the Center has more immediate needs.
- Loryn said she would like to provide more programs at the Center between January and June, 2025, including evenings and weekends, but entertainment costs have increased. She asked *Friends* to consider splitting the cost of hiring the Victorian Strolling Carolers for the holiday party (\$450; *Friends'* portion \$225). She also mentioned a matching grant from the state for transportation assistance for these programs.
- She is training her team on the changing needs of seniors right now to include younger people.
- Regarding the *Friends'* banner and concert materials, we may store items in the Health Office, but we'll need to inform staff and custodian to open that office for a Sunday concert.

Privilege of the Floor

- Paul Hinckley noted that the WCMAA (Western CT Area Agency on Aging) is having a 50th anniversary gala on October 24. Information is available on their website. He also stated that Karen Reddington-Hughes will meet with the Commission for Seniors on Oct. 10 to talk about current legislation affecting seniors.
- Sharon said we have 3 positions vacant on the *Friends* Board of Directors.

Meeting Adjourned 11:05

Beth Lyons, Recording Secretary