



Town of Deerfield
Board of Selectmen



Town of Sunderland
Board of Selectmen



Town of Whately
Board of Selectmen

South County Senior Center Board of Oversight March 29, 2023 Minutes

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the South County Senior Center Board of Oversight was held on March 29, 2023 at 6:02 p.m. Meetings normally held at the Municipal Offices are being held remotely, with adequate, alternative means of public access and, where required, public participation provided, in accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 20.

Meeting convened at 6:02 p.m. with Tom Fydenkevez calling the meeting to order.

Attendance: Trevor McDaniel, Tom Fydenkevez, Joyce Palmer-Fortune

Also present: Jennifer Remillard, Chris Nolan, Denise Mason, Geoff Kravitz, Kayce Warren

Draft Minutes for Approval: McDaniel motioned to approve the draft minutes of the Board of Oversight's June 23, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Joyce Palmer-Fortune. The vote was unanimous in favor 3 to 0.

McDaniel motioned to approve the draft minutes of the Board of Oversight's July 14, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Joyce Palmer-Fortune. The vote was unanimous in favor 3 to 0.

McDaniel motioned to approve the draft minutes of the Board of Oversight's August 29, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Joyce Palmer-Fortune. The vote was unanimous in favor 3 to 0.

McDaniel motioned to approve the draft minutes of the Board of Oversight's November 3, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Joyce Palmer-Fortune. The vote was unanimous in favor 3 to 0.

Discussion of Congregational Church Building Use for SCSC: Fydenkevez made a motion the agenda item regarding the church building use ahead in the meeting, which was unanimously approved by the board. McDaniel stated the board examined the site. He stated that although the site looks promising, it requires a feasibility study to ensure that the space would be environmentally safe. The board is hoping to work with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to facilitate a feasibility study.

Fydenkevez proposed that a building committee be established regarding the needs of the senior center from a site location perspective. He also inquired how the building be funded amongst the three towns and what would be the end games for reconstruction compared to a new building.

Denise Mason informed the board that that asbestos abatement has occurred at the Congregational Church Building. If approved for a pre-construction grant, the town would remove any additional asbestos, conduct mold abatement, shoring up water infiltration in the basement, and repairs to the truss. Next year, the town could apply for a construction grant via Community One Stop funding. An additional grant with a June application could yield \$50,000 for the project.

Mason stated the feasibility study would incorporate information from SCSC members. The board discussed a long-term building for the SCSC, including what the square footage of the project could entail and the former Yankee Candle offices as possible location.

The board discussed the idea of the South County Senior Center as its own district. Remillard suggested approaching other towns about joining the SCSC such as Conway.

Statistical Data Updates: Remillard updated the board about new memberships, which included 26 new members from January to March. Remillard projected at least 100 new members enrolled throughout 2024. During that three-month period, the SCSC hosted 44 days of programming. One week of programming was cancelled due to COVID-19.

In January, the SCSC averaged 56 people per program day. During the month of February, the average was 65. In March, the average was 73 attendees.

Discussion of Budget FY24 – Informational Updates: Remillard informed the board that she's presented the SCSC FY24 budget to officials in the towns of Sunderland, Whately, and Deerfield. The Deerfield Finance Committee voted to approve the budget, while Remillard said she's waiting on approval from the Whately and Sunderland Finance Committees.

Discussion of Grants: Remillard informed the board of a recent grant application to the Wells Trust in Greenfield to assist with funding Tai Chi, Balance & Healthy Bones, and Seated Dance classes. The SCSC is projected to receive \$548 from DTA regarding its SNAP partnership, which would be deposited into the operations budget.

Upcoming Events: The SCSC will host an ongoing Transportation Work Group in partnership with FRCOG's Mass in Motion starting April 11. There will be four work group meetings on transportation and four meetings focused on food insecurity.

On April 28, SCSC will host a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Whately Inn. The theme of this year's annual picnic is Summer Carnival and will take place June 21. On Aug. 23, the SCSC will host its Informational Fair & Cruise Night.

SCSC Transition Plan: SCSC will be partnering with RSVP for volunteers during programming dates. Remillard also stated she plans to have more events at the 22 Amherst Rd., Sunderland location in the future.

Fydenkevez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Palmer-Fortune seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.