



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 December 5, 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 December 5, 2023, at 5:11 pm. 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 5:11 pm with Trevor McDaniel calling the meeting to order.

Attendance: Trevor McDaniel, Joyce Palmer-Fortune, Daniel Murphy

Also present: SCSC (South County Senior Center) Director Jennifer Remillard

Draft Minutes: Remillard presented the board with the Nov. 2, 2023, SCSC Board of Oversight draft minutes for approval. McDaniel motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Murphy. The vote was 2-0 with Palmer-Fortune unavailable for the portion of the meeting.

SCSC Space Status Update: Remillard stated that she met with Sunderland Town Administrator Geoff Kravitz to review space usage of the 23 Plumtree Road site location for the South County Senior Center. Remillard discussed potential renovation plans for the site with the board, which would include expanding rooms at the location.

The property is listed at \$1.8 million and if Sunderland purchased the location to use for the South County Senior Center, the rent for the center would be \$11,000 monthly. Remillard stated the fundraising could offset the monthly mortgage cost for 15–20-year mortgage.

Remillard stated that the basement space could be shared with the town of Sunderland as well as space for office usage for the town.

There's another potential site being reviewed by the SCSC nearby to the Plumtree location, which is 3,900-square feet at approximately \$1 million.

Remillard said the lease for 22 Amherst Road location in Sunderland ends through the month of April. A request for proposals (RFP) must be sent 30 days before the end of April. Delta Sand & Gravel (the landlord for the 22 Amherst Road location) stated they would be open to submitting an RFP to

potentially remain as the site for the South County Senior Center. The former Whately Town Hall could be utilized instead of the 29 Sugarloaf St., (Holy Family Church) site as well.

Palmer-Fortune supported the idea of submitting RFPs for both sites.

Discussion of IMA and Consortium Agreements: Remillard stated that she's slated to meet with Conway COA Chair Patricia Lynch and Conway Town Administrator Véronique Blanchard regarding the town of Conway joining the SCSC. Remillard said in prior meetings and via email communications, the town has expressed interest in joining the South County Senior Center and could likely contribute towards the inter-municipal senior center. However, Remillard said the town would potentially not be able to contribute an additional \$100,000 towards construction/ renovation of a potential new Senior Center location due to the town of Conway's road damage caused by flooding in the summer of 2023.

Discussion of Capital Requests from Each Town Update: Remillard presented an updated capital request for a second SCSC van for transportation, which would be \$12,500 for the town of Deerfield; and \$6,250 each for the towns of Whately and Sunderland. If the town of Conway joined the SCSC, each town's portion for the capital request would be reduced.

Another request was made to Whately and Deerfield for \$500,000 for construction/renovation of a potential new senior center and \$100,000 for furnishing. McDaniel noted that it would be a challenging ask for the town of Deerfield for \$500,000 in capital requests.

Palmer-Fortune suggested funding these capital requests over several years and or potentially using Community Preservation Act funds for the project. Remillard said grant funding could also offset the cost for these capital requests. \$100,000 in state funds earmarked for a regional senior center could also be utilized for the project.

Statistical Data Update: Remillard stated during November, the South County Center averaged 65 people per program day for 2023. In 2023, 136 people joined the senior center. Between the past two years, 257 new members joined the South County Senior Center. 111 older adults attend the Senior Center from other nearby communities.

Discussion of FY25 Budget: Remillard stated that the SCSC was granted a hybrid programming grant for \$119,953.94 via the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. That grant could pay for an additional staff member to support hybrid programming for 15 hours per week for 40 weeks.

Additional SIG (Service Incentive Grant) Outreach and SIG Transportation grants pay for a portion of the salary for Outreach Coordinator Chris Goudreau.

Remillard said the FY25 budget is projected to be about \$180,000.

Upcoming Events/ Items of Importance: Remillard discussed upcoming events, including an Ugly Sweater Holiday Party in Whately, a Christmas Day holiday meal delivery, as well as a New Years' Eve Party at 29 Sugarloaf St., in Deerfield.

Remillard stated that the program coordinator position finalist will be presented to the Deerfield Select Board for approval, after which the finalist would be offered the position.

McDaniel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Palmer-Fortune seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.