

**TOWN OF AMHERST SENIOR SERVICES
MINUTES OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

PRESENT: James Bardot, Chairperson, Senior Services Advisory Board; Michael Camilleri; Rev. Susan Frawley; Gary Henry; Ann Nichols; Julie Whitbeck-Lewinski; Melissa Abel, Executive Director, Amherst Center for Senior Services; Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator

EXCUSED: Dal Giuliani; Shawn Lavin, Councilmember/Liaison to Senior Services Department; Carol Roy; Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director, Amherst Youth & Recreation Department

ABSENT: Aaron Carlson

Meeting opened at 8:30am. Jim made a motion to accept the September meeting minutes, seconded by Sue & approved by the Board.

Discussion, Chairperson Jim Bardot:

Jim began a review of 2024 by thanking the Board for their assistance & guidance over the past year. A lot was accomplished to benefit our seniors & the needs of the Center. Together they accomplished the following:

1. The creation of the new Mission, Vision & Values. This has given our seniors, staff & community a clear description of our culture & purpose.
2. The lowering of the membership age to join from 55 to 50. This will benefit seniors' health & wellness & will align with our Mission, Vision & Values. It also aligns us with NCOA and AARP. Many senior centers across the country are going in this same direction.
3. The Board agreed that it is beneficial to the senior center to no longer accept non-resident memberships.

2025 meeting dates were presented. The 2025 meeting dates were approved by Sue & seconded by Julie.

Report from Melissa Abel, Executive Director, Amherst Senior Services:

- The fulltime PR coordinator position is still available.
- Café construction begins December 9th.
- There is no longer a computer room. Usage has been minimal for a few years, computers all need to be replaced & the cost of doing so is too expensive to purchase & maintain for such minimal use. Two computers will be available for members use in a smaller space.
- The goal for 2025 is to go through the process of NCOA's Standards of Excellence. The 9 areas are: Purpose, Community, Governance, Administration & Human Resources, Program Planning, Evaluation, Fiscal Management, Records & Reports and Facility. The Board will be asked to assist & guide us throughout this process, which is expected to go into 2026.

Report from Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director, Youth & Recreation Dept: Excused, no report.

Report from Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator: Breakfast with Santa & the Holiday Market in the Village took place on Saturday, December 7th and went very well. Many other holiday celebrations are planned. The Sweet Home Chorale Concert is on December 18th at 11:00am. The Holiday Happening takes place on December 20th from 6-8pm and New Year's Eve with "Serendipity Swing" is December 31st.

Report from Carol Roy, President, Representatives' Council: No Report.

Board Member Reports: Ann – A new Judge begins in January.

Adjourn: Jim made a motion to adjourn at 9:00am. Seconded by Gary.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Abel.

*The next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 8:30am
370 John James Audubon Parkway*