

**TOWN OF AMHERST SENIOR SERVICES
MINUTES OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

PRESENT: James Bardot, Chairperson, Senior Services Advisory Board; Michael Camilleri; Rev. Susan Frawley; Lisa Giancarlo; Ann Nichols; Melissa Abel, Executive Director, Amherst Center for Senior Services; Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator; Mary Diana Pouli, Youth & Recreation

EXCUSED: Gary Henry and Julie Whitbeck-Lewinski

ABSENT: Shawn Lavin, Councilmember/Liaison to Senior Services Department;

Meeting opened by Jim at 8:35am. Jim made a motion to accept the June 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Sue & approved by Board.

Discussion, Chairperson Jim Bardot:

By-Law updates:

- a. By-law amendment #1 Vote : Article III Membership & Term :

Current wording: Advisory Board members shall have a demonstrated expertise in senior service (or a related field) and shall be currently employed or retired from one of the following categories : social services, health care, education, the clergy, business or the professions, public relations/marketing, or law enforcement.

Amend to : Candidates for the Advisory Board should possess demonstrated expertise from diverse professional backgrounds that directly contribute to the needs and interests of the 50+ age group.

Vote : Jim made a Motion to Accept Amendment #1, Seconded by Sue. Nobody opposed. Approved by the Board.

- b. By-laws amendment #2 Vote: Article III Membership & Term, 6c :

Current Wording: President of the Representatives Council Meeting

Amend to : Amherst Senior Center Member-at-Large

Vote : Jim made a Motion to Accept Amendment #2, Seconded by Sue. Nobody opposed. Approved by the Board.

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

1. Melissa discussed the center being used for a reunification location for the bus accident that occurred on the I-90
2. Installation of the new HVAC units will begin 9/18

3. NYS Assembly Speaker Haestie was in for a tour of the center and discussed funding that will be available to the senior center.
4. Waiting on budget
5. 3 positions are open : FT Cook, PT Recreation Attendant, PT Social Case Worker. The Supervisor just instituted a hiring freeze until the end of the year. I will ask that these positions continue to be filled in order to continue the operations of the senior center.
6. The time we open changed to 9am and it is going well.
7. Café time line “ Legacy Entertainment won the Bid. They are currently hiring to fill the positions needed to operate the café’.
8. Outreach : FOIL request concerns with clients. Mike said to contact him directly and he will handle.
9. Our new format for Representatives Council will be a quarterly Member Forum. Any member can now attend (RSVP) to share concerns, ask questions, share ideas.

Report from Tammy Jacobs, Program Coordinator:

1. Discussed upcoming programs
2. Please sign up for the Anniversary Dinner if you haven't already
3. September is National Senior Center Month. Special events are planned.

Report from Mary Diana Pouli, Youth & Recreation :

1. Regarding the bus accident, we do not usually get reimbursed for costs. The town did submit a request for reimbursement.
2. There have been some recent cuts to the department budgets across the Town, including Travel and Training.

Board Member Reports:

1. Lisa : busy time of year with Open Enrollment. Seniors need to pay close attention this year because there are a lot of changes.

Melissa did state that we have some educational programs this month going over changes and are encouraging seniors to attend.

Adjourn: Mike made a motion to adjourn at 9:15am.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Abel.

***The next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10th at 8:30am
370 John James Audubon Parkway***