



Town of Sherman
Commission on Aging
Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2025

Commissioners Present: Janet Wey (Acting Chair), Lynda Arnold, Keith Barton, Merialis Lewis, Sheila McMahan, Jeanne McRoberts, Kim Thomson, Susan White

Absent: Meredith Kroeger, Suzette Berger (Senior Center), Lynne Gomez (Social Services)

Also Present: C. Aruza (Clerk)

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Acting Chair, J. Wey.

Motion made by: J. McRoberts moved to approve the 10/20/2025 minutes

Seconded by: K. Thomson

Vote For: Unanimous

Senior Center/Social Services Report:

Senior Center Report

S. Berger submitted a written report in advance of the meeting:

“We are trying different formats of communication since the Town Tribune has changed its distribution. The owners of the Daily Market have kindly put up a holder for our Senior Center Newsletter. It is next to the exit door. Our Facebook page continues to add followers. We are now printing the newsletter in color. Now that we have entered the holiday season, our calendar reflects this. The SPTO Luncheon will be on November 21 at 1pm at Charter Hall this year. If anyone on the COA board is interested or you know neighbors pass the word. I also am making reservations for homebound seniors whom I will deliver the meal to. Please RSVP to the senior center. The volunteers need the numbers to set up the

tables and prepare. This is a terrific community event and if you haven't yet signed up, I encourage you to join us.

In addition, we are also organizing our holiday luncheon at Jim Barbaries on Friday, December 12 at 12pm. I am looking for donations of gifts and gift cards to hand out at the party. If anyone knows of someone willing to solicit gifts or donate, please have them reach out to me. It is a treat for folks to receive a small gift for the holiday. Respectfully submitted, Suzette Berger.”

Social Services Report

No report at this time.

Ongoing Business:

1) Building Committee Update

Per K. Thomson she has no additional information at this time as she does not believe there has been a recent meeting. Commissioners were curious how many attended the in-person forum yesterday at Charter Hall.

2) Getting Info Out

S. McMahon shared with the commission that an information postcard regarding the Senior Center referendum went out today from the “Friends of the Senior Center “5013c. It includes: a rendering of the building; facts about the project; who uses the center; and how to find out more information. The postcard will go out to every household that is here all year and to those not here all year around. J. McRoberts asked if it is similar to what was published in the *Sherman Sentinel*. S. McMahon indicated it did. J. McRoberts and other commissioners think the postcard will be useful in getting the word out.

J. Wey highlighted points raised in Don Lowe's (First Selectman) recent *Town Tribune* column. In the column, he provided the dates for the availability for absentee ballots; when the vote will be held (Saturday, December 6th, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm); along with other pertinent vote information. K. Thomson asked for clarification that it will be a single question vote, which is the case.

S. McMahon raised the matter of donations. The understanding from D. Lowe is that there are pledges based on the referendum passing, which can't be announced until actualized.

Per K. Thomson's suggestion, J. Wey will ask S. Berger about putting key dates for the vote and information about absentee ballots on the Senior Center's new Facebook page. J. Wey will also ask to post this same information on the bulletin board and to be passed out during lunches at the center. In addition, she said anyone can write a letter to the editor so long as they write it as a resident and not as a commissioner speaking on behalf of the commission. She recommended members submit letters, if possible, for the next *Town Tribune/Sherman Sentinel*.

Regarding the matter of town communication via the NIXLE system, S. White shared that she conducted an informal survey of approximately 45 people in Sherman and they did not know about NIXLE. She recommended that it be added to the Senior Center's list of phone numbers and it is currently not listed. She is concerned that getting the word out via NIXLE is not sufficient. J. Wey advised that you can also get notifications via the town website.

K. Barton inquired in general about the degree of resident participation in town government affairs and elections. A discussion ensued about what percentage typically votes; how the vote question affects certain demographics and their interests; how turnout is affected by smooth local government operations or more controversial vote topics; etc.

S. White came back to the issue if we are actually getting the word out. M. Lewis said it is an issue if seniors are less conversant with phones, computers, email, etc. S. White said that NIXLE and website alerts should be taught to seniors at the senior center.

S. McMahon suggested that commissioners keep in touch with each other if they have additional ideas to share about getting the word out.

J. McRoberts will send an email to D. Lowe requesting that absentee ballot times/dates and the date of the referendum via NIXLE. K. Thomson inquired if information has been shared with school parents in town. J. Wey advised that D. Lowe and the Sherman Parent Teacher Organization (SPTO) recently held a special in-person forum regarding the referendum for parents.

New Business:

1. Any new business that comes before the COA.

M. Lewis sent a letter to D. Lowe (which was read at the last Board of Selectmen meeting) about improving the lights outside of town hall at night. Commissioners agreed is a public safety issue as the lights are not bright enough for evening meetings. There was a suggestion to put the letter in the *Town Tribune*.

M. Lewis also raised the matter of the white guidelines on Route 37 at the southern end of Sherman needing to be repainted. J. McRoberts recommended that she ask D. Lowe whom to contact at the state department of public works as it is in their purview.

Comments by Commissioners:

None at this time.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

K. Barton moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Seconded by: S. White

Vote for: All in favor

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza
Next meeting: January 26, 2025 @ 4:00 PM at Mallory Town Hall