



Town of Sherman
Commission on Aging
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026

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

Absent: Meredith Kroeger, Merialis Lewis, Suzette Berger (Senior Center)

Also Present: Don Lowe (First Selectman), Lynne Gomez (Social Services), C. Aruza (Clerk)

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by Acting Chair, J. Wey.

Motion made by: J. McRoberts moved to approve the 2/2/26 minutes

Seconded by: L. Arnold

Vote For: Unanimous

Senior Center/Social Services Report:

Senior Center Report

No report at this time.

Social Services Report

L. Gomez said they are having an American Disabilities Act (ADA) workshop this week. They are working on a transition plan to bring facilities and parks up to compliance with the act. The workshops are to solicit input from the public on what they think should added/changed with respect to public spaces. The workshop is facilitated by WESTCOG and will be split into two sessions with one session taking place tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. and the other on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. WESTCOG hired W-T Group to conduct the assessment and to provide a plan that includes a list of items to implement. It is up to the town to decide what gets

implemented. The town is not obligated to implement anything that is considered legally an 'undue burden'. J. McRoberts asked if there is a deadline for compliance. L. Gomez advised there is no deadline. Rather, the towns are expected to act in good faith and put in place their own deadlines. K. Barton offered to attend the workshop tomorrow as a liaison from the commission.

J. Wey asked if there were funds provided by either group for implementing recommendations. Per L. Gomez there is no allocation of funds. J. Wey also inquired about historic buildings and the potential impact to them. L. Gomez said there are certain exclusions for historical buildings.

Ongoing Business:

1) Discuss and Respond to Community Expo Invite

J. Wey advised the commission that they have been invited again this year to have a booth at the Community Expo. Last year the commission participated as part of the Senior Center booth. The organizers would like a response this week. J. Wey will inform the organizers the commission wishes to participate and will confirm when S. Berger returns. Last year, the commission gave out flyers containing important contact info in addition to candy. There need to be updates to the flyer (e.g., emails for Senior Center & Social Services; NIXLE sign-up, website notification sign-up, etc.). K. Thomson will update the flyer and L. Arnold will print again this year. The Senior Center brings the table, chairs and tent covering. The commission will need to have volunteers for manning the booth, which can be discussed at next month's meeting. L. Gomez suggested maybe having students help and will ask if that helps them towards their service hours to the community. She will also assist with transporting booth materials (table, chairs, etc.) from the Senior Center to the Town Green.

2) Building Committee Update

Per K. Thomson she attended two meetings (one in February and one in March). D. Lowe said they went into executive session during the February meeting to discuss the architect's contract who essentially requested to be released. They are now in the process of putting together a request for proposal (RFP) for a new architect to take the project forward per the initial plan and approved budget. There will be time to address concerns regarding the outside appearance.

The building committee composition has changed to include other professional inputs including selectmen Bob Ostrosky and Joel Bruzinski, Treasurer Andrea Maloney and someone who had experience building the fire department in Bedford, NY. K. Barton asked if it has folks with construction experience and if they are allowed to bid. There is no longer anyone on the committee who will bid on the project. J. McRoberts asked how many members are on the committee now to which D. Lowe responded that there are ten.

J. Wey said originally this was a commission project and is concerned about representation following the loss of Ed Hayes and Rick Hudson who served as official members. D. Lowe said he will ensure K. Thomson is kept up to speed as the official liaison. Commission members asked additional questions about the timeline, working within same footprint, etc. Per D. Lowe, they still have construction manager (Hawley Construction) and anticipate the building may be done by fall 2027.

3) Traffic Re-Direction – Senior Center

S. White revisited changing the traffic flow to have the bus come in the current exit and vice-versa. This would allow passengers to exit the bus near the entrance door to the building. D. Lowe will talk with S. Berger and Public Works on the matter.

New Business:

1) Any New Business that Comes Before the COA

J. Wey advised she can no longer access the Gmail account that had been set up in the past for the commission. She asked D. Lowe what can be done (e.g., a new .gov email address created for the commission). He advised he would look into it.

S. McMahon shared that the *Friends of the Senior Center* non-profit organization has plans to be more visible to help bring in more donations. Roseann DiMatteo will help out and they may create an online presence to facilitate. K. Barton asked if they would also utilize the *Town Tribune* and *Sentinel* to raise their profile. S. McMahon said down the road they will put an article in both publications.

Comments by Commissioners:

None at this time.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Adjournment:

J. McRoberts moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Seconded by: S. McMahon

Vote for: All in favor

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza
Next meeting: April 20, 2026 @ 4:00 PM at Mallory Town Hall