

Charlotte Senior Center Friends Board Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Location: Senior Center & Zoom

Attendance: Lane Morrison (Chair), Polly Price, Ron Ulmer, Susan Hyde, Brandon Tieso, Carl Herzog, Magdalena Naylor, Loretta McManus

Staff Present: Lori York, Thyleen Tenney

Guests: None formally noted

1. Call to Order & Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Members noted that the AI-generated draft contained minor errors and some superfluous information.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

Financial Status: Carl Herzog reported that the meals account is slightly low but expected for this time of year, while the main account is performing well.

Donations: Annual fund donations are approximately \$23,700, ahead of last year's \$20,800. Including memorial gifts, the total is nearly \$27,000.

Action: A motion was made to move \$10,000 from the checking account to the Vanguard Money Market account to take advantage of higher interest rates (approx. 3.5%). The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

3. Director's Report

Town Budget: The Board will attend the Selectboard's budget review meeting on Monday.

Rentals: Rental income is ahead of budget, with \$3,150 collected year-to-date against a \$2,000 budget. Loretta McManus noted that "word of mouth" has been the primary driver for new rentals.

Instructor Contracts: New contracts have been distributed to paid instructors, including an "Expectations" document to ensure consistency regarding attendance taking and microphone use.

Grant: Staff will submit an application for a grant from the Shelburne Social Services Committee.

Health Advisory: Following a note from a local pediatrician regarding the flu, the Board agreed to include a health reminder in the weekly email newsletter rather than sending a standalone blast.

4. Committee Reports & Old Business

Community Bulletin Board Policy: The Board reviewed the final draft of the policy (dated January 7).

Motion: Susan Hyde moved to accept the Community Bulletin Board Posting Policy. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Renaming/Rebranding Subcommittee: Lori York presented a recommendation to form a subcommittee to explore renaming the Senior Center to better reflect its active demographic and attract younger seniors.

Committee Members: The committee will include Board members Brandon Tieso and Loretta McManus, along with community members Mary Ann Gatos, Heidi Kvasnak, and Jonathan Hart.

Motion: A motion was made to formally establish this subcommittee to explore the renaming/rebranding process and report findings back to the Board. The motion was seconded and approved.

Parking: Lane Morrison reported on a meeting with Town Planning and the Fire Chief. A proposal to remove shrubbery to gain four spaces was deemed insufficient to justify the cost and loss of greenery. Parking remains an unresolved issue.

5. New Business

Payment Technology (Square): Staff provided an update on integrating Square for credit card payments. Challenges remain regarding integration with MySeniorCenter and accounting for transaction fees. A testing period with specific classes was discussed.

Plant Sale vs. Community Event: The Board discussed the future of the annual Plant Sale. Consensus suggested that the event has become labor-intensive with diminishing financial returns.

Discussion: The Board explored replacing the sale with a broader community-building social event (e.g., a BBQ or partnership with the Library/Fire & Rescue) that focuses on engagement rather than fundraising. A "Social Committee" or "Community Committee" may be formed to explore alternatives.

6. Adjournment

The discussion regarding the plant sale concluded the recorded business.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Tieso

Recording Secretary