



**The Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie  
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes**

**February 5, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 1**

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

**2. Roll Call**

The Chair gave the roll call.

Present: Graham Rignall, Muriel Beckett, Carolyn Beardwood, Councillor Joan Christensen, Jayne Cruishank, Bill Doyle, Deborah Fairlie, Lida Greenaway, Abi Monard, Peter Grantham, Sandra Peitsch, Rosalie Snyder, Rosalind Tarrant-Dikens, Helen Rignall, Jose Varghese, Ann Jaanus and Felicia Ferrusi.

Absent: Michelle Bearss and Ken Monard.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

**That:** The Agenda for February 5, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Moved by: P. Grantham

Seconded by: A. Jaanus

**Carried**

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**That:** The Minutes for January 8, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Moved by: C. Beardwood

Seconded by: P. Grantham

**Carried**

## 5. Correspondence

D. Fairlie received an email from the Town regarding the WHO Age-Friendly initiative. The Town inquired about participation, but we respectfully declined, citing current workload constraints, and expressed our appreciation for the opportunity.

## 6. Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update regarding email sent from Ashlea Carter, Town Clerk regarding the Ontario Senior of the Year Award. Deadline is April 30, 2025, to vote- next meeting we will talk about who we want to nominate.

On April 15, 2025, a session with Beth at the Gilmore Lodge regarding Long-Term Care Homes information will be held.

- Attendance is limited to 50 people.
- This is an invitation-only event.
- Please contact G. Rignall, he will be away for most of the month of March, but will be available.
- G. Rignall will place two advertisements in *The Observer* to promote the event.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided an update, noting that he was unavailable last month. He reported receiving only two expense submissions for advertisements in *The Observer*. To date, a total of \$201.00 has been spent on these two expenditures.

## 8. Council Representative Report

- Councillor Christensen provided an update on the Capital Levy Budget, noting that the Town was granted \$35,000.00, an increase from the previous \$30,000.00.
- The Mayor delivered a presentation to Niagara Health Services regarding Council's position on retaining Douglas Memorial Hospital following its planned closure in 2028, when the new hospital is expected to open. Concerns were raised about the lack of primary care access in the municipality. The Town's position is to advocate for keeping Douglas Memorial Hospital open and to engage in further consultation. Niagara Health Services responded that they are willing to collaborate with the Town.
- Niagara Regional Transit is conducting a survey regarding its services. Many residents have expressed concerns about the challenges the Town has faced since the Region took over the transit system, particularly regarding accessibility for individuals with special needs.

## 9. Sub-Committee Reports

### February Happy Jack's Dinner Review

- A total of 182 people attended the event.
- The proposed budget was \$6,300; however, actual expenses amounted to only \$4,268. The event sold out in just one day.
- Two key concerns:
  - The attendance of 182 people may have exceeded a comfortable capacity.
  - Consideration should be given to hosting the event over two days instead of one to enhance the experience for attendees.

### 9.1 Bingo & Luncheon Update - March 15

- Location: Beachcombers (Box Lunch)
- Volunteers needed for bingo callers and floor verifiers—requesting volunteers at the next meeting.
- Ken collaborated with Jennifer on poster design.
- Tickets: 75 available; price to be determined.
- Bingo Details:
  - 10 blank bingo cards provided (2 per game).
  - Prize money: \$25 for the first nine games, \$50 for the final full-card game.
  - Additional bingo cards available for \$1 each.

### 9.2 Information Session - April 15 (LTC Homes Update)

- Date & Time: April 15, 2025 - Room available from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Presentation from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM.
- The topic of discussion will be differences between Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes, plus an overview of available Senior Community Programs.
- Notices to be published in *The Observer* on March 19, 2025, and April 2, 2025.
- No tickets required, this is a free event. RSVP to G.Rignall. Capacity for the event is 75 people.

### 9.3 Euchre & Luncheon Update - May 5

- Venue: Hall secured for May 5, 2025.

#### 9.4 Senior's Stepping Out - Volunteerism Event - June 18

- The event will take place at the Leisureplex
- We are expecting 100-200 residents
- This is a free lunch featuring two food trucks.
- Pricing to be determined for those non-residents.
- The event budget is set at \$6,000.
- Various agencies will be present as volunteers, each hosting a booth where residents can connect and network with them.
- Outdoor picnic tables will be available for attendees to enjoy their meals.

#### 10. On-going Business

Fairlie and J. Christensen to give update on senior outdoor fitness meeting with Town Parks and Recreation, S. Hutton.

- Meeting with Town staff, E. Terry and S. Hutton next week.

10.1 A. Jaanus shared information on the WHO Age-Friendly Designation and referenced Report No. CAO-12-2021, which outlines the reasons for the denial.

- Gave an overview of the report and the gaps in an age friendly designation

#### 11. New Business

L. Greenaway provided an update on Public Transit for seniors, summarizing the meeting held at Town Hall on January 30, 2025.

#### 12. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 10:00 am.

#### 13. Adjournment

**That:** The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee adjourned at 11:30.

Moved by: P. Grantham

Seconded by: M. Beckett

**Carried**