

COA Meeting Notes  
February 12, 2014

Jim called meeting to order 12:05 pm. Members present: Jim Negri, Carol Kotros, Kevin Rudden, Mary Ann Hopkins, Bob Carlson and Ann Vandersluis. Earl Pearlman was absent. Kevin excused himself at 12:45 pm. Also present Amy Wilson Kent, Director.

The secretary, treasurer and director's reports were all approved unanimously. Regarding The Friends, the March 13 Newport Playhouse trip was cancelled due to low registration. The Book Fair is scheduled for April 4, 5, 6. Volunteers are sorting books and tapes.

#### Old Business

Food Pantry Update—Amy is looking into purchasing cloth bags to replace paper bags in order to standardize food distribution. Carol is ordering more gift cards for emergency situations. The Clough School donated 200 cans of soup. Carol is in the process of qualifying food pantry recipients to verify need.

Senior Center Expansion—the Paddock property is on the Feb 24 STM warrant for purchase with CPA funds for use for sports fields, affordable housing, open space or future senior center expansion. Four to five acres need to be set aside for purchase by the town if used for senior center expansion since CPA funds are not eligible for this. The Fin Com requested an appraisal prior to STM.

Outreach Worker—Beverly Hart was officially hired as of Feb 10, 2014. She will train with Nancy Mosher starting this Friday.

Director's Position—waiting for Town Administrator to be hired to review all town positions to determine if position warrants additional hours.

Tax Abatement Program—currently requests have to be approved by BOS. Positions that have been volunteer are not eligible.

#### New Business

Senior Community Service Employment Program—Amy asked for feedback on a federal government program for impoverished persons age 55 or older to train at senior centers to provide administrative support for 20 hours a week. They are paid minimum wage by the government. A concern was raised as to whether or not this person would need to have a staff member present in Amy's absence. Amy will invite the woman who runs this program in our area to meet with Jim, Earl and any other COA board member who is interested, to answer all questions we have.

Volunteer Appreciation—the Cultural Council will sponsor the entertainment for the April 30 event. Amy has \$500 in a grant for food and mementos for the volunteers. Some

members thought the soup and sandwich menu would work again this year. Others felt we could have the main course catered and embellish with soup, salad, rolls, beverage and dessert ourselves. We will decide at March's meeting when all are present.

Open Forum—Insurance inspection found a few housekeeping issues downstairs and in the garage. Alan Tetreault built a small ledge in the oil tank area to comply with containment issues.

Meeting adjourned at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Vandersluis  
Secretary

Cc: Jim Negri