

COA Meeting Notes

April 13, 2022

Earl called the meeting to order at 10:10am. Members present: Earl Pearlman, Peg Nogueira, Diane Howell, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Carol Kotros was absent. Also present: Betsy Edsall, Friends' Vice President. The meeting took place at the Senior Center and was being audio recorded so we all introduced ourselves with our titles.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. The Director's report will be interspersed throughout.

Betsy gave a brief Friends' report. They met on Monday, April 11, and the meeting was well attended. They currently have almost 60 paid members. They are very busy updating by-laws, planning the Progressive Yard Sale, working on the scholarship awards and planning upcoming trips.

Old Business

Food Pantry—is going smoothly; is very well stocked; there are volunteers to check dates, stock shelves and fill orders. Some clients are willing to come in by appointment, which is especially helpful for families.

Senior Center Arch/Eng Update—Peg reported on last Wednesday's meeting with town officials. We may have a problem with the positioning of our well and septic system since we are surrounded by a 40B land parcel which the town wants to sell to a private contractor, so they want to make sure everything will meet state approval. Facts and figures are being compiled by the engineer and architect to assist in the determination.

FY23 Budget—has been approved by FinCom and Select Board; additional hours for the Outreach Worker have to be approved by the voters at the ATM on May 6, 2022.

MCOA Conference-May 4, 2022—some COA members will attend along with Senior Center staff.

Vision Statement—we decided to table it for now and redefine our vision for the future at a later date in conjunction with the Senior Center expansion.

New Business

Storage Space—Amy and van driver/custodial worker, Mark Rousseau, are working on cleaning out and organizing the basement and garage to make room for the Friends to prepare for their June yard sale. Amy is looking at renting a storage pod for a few months to store durable medical equipment since the shed is full and wants to make sure we are on board with this. There were no objections.

Senior of the Year—there are no nominations yet but there is still time; deadline June 1, 2022.

Senior Cane Presentation—Janet is still working on this as there have been a few snags.

Before going to Open Forum Amy had a few additional things she wanted us to know about: on Tuesday, April 19, the Grafton Job Corps will be doing yard clean-up; Amy ordered bark mulch from Landscape Depot in Milford which will be delivered this Friday; the Friends have voted to pay for the pizza lunch for the Job Corp workers; on Thursday, April 21, there will be a Tri-Valley training for lunch servers at 10am; Janet and Amy have attended a Memory Training Program along with two Hopedale Senior Center staff persons; they have to commit to two clinics a year; there will be one in Hopedale and one in Mendon.

Open Forum

Peg wants the Friends to have their own bulletin board; Amy said she has already cleared off the white space on the board to the left of the upper stairs.

Peg would also like to see a program for Learner/Teacher skills; for example: someone needs to know how to sharpen a knife and someone with this knowledge would respond.

Meeting adjourned 11:05am. Next meeting May 11, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary