

Draft Copy

COA Meeting Notes

December 7, 2022

Earl called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Members present: Earl Pearlman, Peg Nogueira, Carol Kotros, Diane Howell, Dona Son, Phil Cieply, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Also present: Friends' Vice President, Betsy Edsall and Select Board COA liaison, Alejna Brugos.

The meeting was being videotaped, so we introduced ourselves with our titles.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a lengthy verbal Director's report: she said it has been a very busy fall, mainly involving Programming of which the newsletter is an important part; without The Crier she has been working with other town departments in order to keep abreast of goings on; she found out that seniors who applied for the trash discount but neglected to complete the town census were denied, but it was too late to post it in the Dec/Jan newsletter; she was contacted by a mystery book author to have a program at the senior center but she thought the library would be a better venue and it took place there; Tri-Valley was extremely happy with the response to Matter of Balance; a six week Chronic Disease program will be offered this spring; Kyle is waiting for scout approval for his Eagle Scout project to install cabinets on posts for borrowing books; regarding the Senior Work Program, Amy likes to assess participants' strengths but we need more available work positions to accommodate everyone; Amy applied for a Cultural

Council program for an Eleanor Roosevelt portrayer on Wed April 12 @ 1pm; she also put in a request for a magician in May and is waiting for approval on both; the fire alarm was updated after several years; groups presently using the center are Thimble Pleasures, the Lions Club, two Girl Scout troops and Boy Scout troop leaders; discount tickets for the Nutcracker were offered to seniors by the Dean School of Dance; our 11 year old van was serviced by Howley and we have used the town's electric car when the van was out of service; Amy is trying to get the van drivers completely up to date on training; the Friends' can/bottle collection provides funds for transportation; Earl asked about Uber in the event the van and electric car were not available; Amy said we'll put this on the January agenda for discussion; we have three new volunteers who will need Tri-Valley training.

Friends' Report: Betsy Edsall read the report stating she and Dorothy Garceau have decided to remain as President and Vice President in the absence of any new volunteers; in fact, the Friends voted on Nov 14 to retain last year's entire board; there will be many parties and celebrations in December: Dec 8, Minstrel's Concert and Pot Luck Luncheon; Dec 14, Friends' annual Christmas Party; Dec 22, Orchestra of One; Dec 29, New Year's Eve Party; Friends will be donating \$1200 toward a flashing road sign on Providence Rd to hopefully slow down traffic near the Senior Center; Tom Irons will continue to head the dine-out group; Friends have received \$2762 in donations so far this year; they are very grateful and wish to thank the community for their generosity and support.

Old Business

Food Pantry Update—the Scout Food Drive on Nov 5 brought in a fair amount of food but without the flyer in The Crier, lack of sufficient advertising and the cost of food, amounts were less; however, food continues to come in at the Post Office and gazebo drop box; we also got a generous food and paper products donation from St. Gabriel's; the Friday food shopping by appointment went well; six clients participated; we have two new food pantry volunteers who check dates, stock shelves and fill orders when needed; presently, we are way ahead on filling orders; the Dec 22 deliveries are completed.

Senior Center Addition—our Town Administrator says we are next on the list, but the town has many irons in the fire right now; Amy and Phil will request a meeting with Kim in early 2023.

Acceptable Behavior Policy—we reviewed the revised policy; Diane suggested adding “and additional services” after Senior Center in the second and third offense paragraphs; all agreed.

Drivers' Safety @ Senior Center entrance/exit—Highway Supervisor, Alan Tetreault, said the flashing road signs should be installed by year end.

Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast—Veteran Earl spoke very favorably about the event; food, patriotic music and conversation among attendees was just great.

Holiday Programs & Meals—Dec 8, Minstrel's Holiday Concert and Pot Luck Lunch; Dec 14, Ferucci sponsored Holiday Dinner. Set up Dec 13 @ 2pm; arrive by 11am Dec 14; Dec 22, Orchestra of One and Tri-Valley holiday meal; Friends' New Years Eve Party and Chinese luncheon being coordinated by Diane Howell.

New Business

MCOA Conference follow-up—Amy, Peg and Phil attended; Phil said the seminar on building construction and additions was very enlightening; it's extremely important to keep the town involved, especially the Select Board. He and Amy will try to meet with Town Admin early next year.

FY-24 Budget—Town Admin is working on the budget for next year; right now Amy doesn't see the need to request more than last year.

Holiday Schedule—Amy will be on vacation the week between Christmas and New Years; Brothers of the Brush will meet at the senior center on Dec 19 at 5:30pm for Christmas caroling.

Open Forum

Staff/Board Training—we chose Wed Jan 18 at Lowell's Restaurant; we will check our calendars and get back to Amy.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 am.

Next meeting January 11, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary