

COA Meeting Notes

February 5, 2020

Peg called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Jennifer Talamini, Diane Howell, Mary Ann Hopkins, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Friends' member Sue Carlson was present covering the phones.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy presented a written Director's report. Topics covered were: urinal repair, social media policy meeting, senior center building contact list, electric car charging station, van repairs, MCOA Senior Center evaluation training, ABMI Cable Program visit, floor refinishing, Whole Foods volunteers, fax/alarm repairs and our new function, Voice Connect. Amy also passed out 2019 Mendon Senior Center statistics. Mendon seniors age 60+ comprise 24% of the total population.

The Friends aren't meeting until next Monday. Sue Carlson did mention the day trip to Newport RI flower show on June 20, 2020.

Old Business

Food Pantry—majority of clients had their ID card. Janet was present. Pantry is well stocked. A senior who is running for Select Board came down to the Food Pantry to collect signatures to get on the ballot. Janet asked him to leave because he was being obtrusive and the food pantry distribution is private. The Commonwealth of Mass does allow this as long as it's reasonable and unobtrusive. Amy will post this information for all to see.

Architectural/Engineering Update—Amy is getting together all the minutes from the committee's meetings to be posted on the town's website.

ABMI Cable Update—Jenn and Amy met with them to see the space where the program will take place. It will be a 30 minute program with opening music from the Mendon Minstrels. There will be a 15 minute interview and a 5 minute highlight of a senior center activity. We will try to come up with 5 possible titles for the program to be voted on by the seniors.

FY21 COA Budget—FinCom hasn't gotten to ours yet.

Goals and Events—we locked in a few dates: Senior cookout July 16, Senior Tea July 26. Forge Hill is sponsoring the entertainment for 3 events: March 17 St Patrick's lunch, August 19 Ice Cream Social and a September event date and time TBD.

Conflict of Interest—all COA members have responded to the Town Clerk.

New Business

Volunteer Appreciation—May 6, 2020—Western theme—Amy and Laura are researching caterers—Diane suggested KFC--Roger Tinknell is the entertainer.

Electric Car/Charging Station—Amy was approached about having the charging station down here. It would have to be attached to the building. We need to find out if we would have to give up a parking space. We also have to find out if insurance covers passengers along with the town employee driver.

Raised Garden Beds—Laura was approached by a woman who works for a company that puts in raised beds. However, it's very expensive...\$275 a bed. Amy would rather see it as an Eagle Scout project. We still had concerns about maintenance. Earl suggested a Senior Tax Abatement worker. We'll put on back burner for now.

Feasibility Study for Fridays—this is in regards to having the center open on Fridays for activities. Amy said there would be a staffing issue. Also, Friday is the only flexible day available when we need to schedule a special activity. Example: floor refinishing. Amy said it's on her radar to someday have Fridays as a respite center to give caregivers a needed break. It would have to be coordinated with a company like Blair House or Beaumont. It's only an idea right now.

Open Forum

Carol mentioned that a food pantry client who couldn't come sent someone else. Amy said Janet does deliver under special circumstances. The van driver takes care of regular monthly deliveries.

Diane updated us about the Book Fair on March 27, 28 & 29. There is a committee of six, busy sorting books. She has contacted the library about borrowing book ends.

Amy reminded us about the Federal Census which is important for state funding for seniors. Someone will be here on Feb 20 to talk about the census.

A committee for our 30th Anniversary in October will consist of Amy, Laura, Peg and Jenn.

Next meeting March 11, 2020. Today's meeting adjourned at 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis, Secretary

