

COA Meeting Notes

February 7, 2024

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

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a brief Director's report saying she has been very busy with training and paperwork for the Senior Work-off Program and training for our new Admin Assistant, Julie Tulacro.

Friends' Report: Susan Edmondson said they do not meet until February 12, so nothing current to report. She did mention dues are due soon; they are stilling looking for a volunteer to oversee meeting refreshments; they will be working on upcoming 2024 events; the Mission Statement and job descriptions will be available for discussion; they will be discussing the Friends' role in fundraising for the new center and Phil will be keeping them updated on building progress at monthly meetings.

Old Business

Food Pantry—Amy said she and Janet decided to postpone evening hours until daylight savings time; we are getting low on some items, so Amy sent a list to her Facebook contact; on Tuesday Feb 6 Amy and Ann visited Clough School to talk to students grades 1-4 about the Food Pantry as they will be holding a food drive in the near future.

S.C. Expansion—Phil distributed a draft of the proposed new building; the architect is looking at where to reduce costs and will have ideas at next Tuesday's meeting; the town's Finance Director provided figures on the impact to property taxes; Phil and Diane will meet with the Community Preservation Committee to discuss walking trails, pickle ball court, etc.; to get community support members of expansion committee will meet with community groups, such as, Brothers, Lions, Scouts, etc.; they will work on getting an insert into our March newsletter and the Mendon/Upton Free Press.

FY25 Budget—Amy met with Finance Director Jody and interim town administrator to work on our budget; she is asking for 14 additional hrs for the Admin Assistant; would like to get \$1700 for \$1 fee per senior based on current senior population; Custom Alarm updated their system so the maintenance costs have gone up. The budget is still a work in progress.

Facebook Appointment—Peg and Dona are working on posting pictures on Facebook to increase interest; they will wait for Amy's go-ahead.

Increased Transportation Needs—Amy is waiting to hear from Tri-Valley to see if they received any funding; we will have to find out from legal if Senior Tax Abatement Workers could drive patients to out of town medical appointments using the electric car; Friends have a transportation account and Peg suggested adding a transportation request to our 2024 Financial Requests; Alejna suggested Uber; Amy will contact Hopedale Senior Center to see how they handle this issue.

Goals & Events 2024—we continued the discussion from last month starting with September; participate again in town's Rock the Block event in September; October flu vaccine clinic; November 8 Veteran's Appreciation; BVT Aging Well Program in November; Holiday Dinner in December.

Friends' Funding Requests—requesting funding for Beautification, Fly the Flag, Entertainment, Program Supplies, Director's Discretionary(for emergency); Fitness Programs and Transportation to out of town appts. Will be presented at their February 12 meeting for discussion and approval.

Reminder—Conflict of Interest Acknowledgment is due in March.

New Business

Annual Report—2023 statistics—Amy is working on this; the state report is due Feb 16 and town annual report is due soon, too.

Volunteer Appreciation—April 17—Amy is waiting for approval from Cultural Council for the entertainer; this year's theme is Campfire; the sub-committee(Peg, Dona & Carol) will meet soon to work out details.

AARP Tax Prep—in Hopedale is underway, began 2 weeks ago for seniors and moderate to low income families; appointment required.

Open Forum

Alejna reminded us that on March 4 at 10am at the S.C. there is a workshop to learn about the town's strategic planning efforts for local housing solutions.

Meeting adjourned 11:50am.

Next meeting March 13, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary