

COA Meeting Notes

February 8, 2023

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

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

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a brief Director's report with the rest being interspersed throughout. In January: the furnace was cleaned; our water source was under state review which revealed we need a vapor barrier valve to prevent water from running back into the building...everything else is A-okay; it was a busy month for training as we had two new senior tax abatement workers and three new Tri-Valley lunch volunteers, who had paper work to be completed and lunch volunteer training with Tri-Valley; prep and planning for the Jan 25 Staff/COA Board training.

Tri-Valley Report-- Dona Son was present for the Tri-Valley virtual meeting on January 18; they are looking for a veteran to be on their board; on April 4 they will hold a blood drive; the remainder of the meeting was financial business.

Betsy Edsall gave the Friends' report: they will hold their business meeting on Monday, February 13; on February 14 there will be a Valentine Party; President Dottie Garceau is working on the tax filing for the organization; a Dairy Queen fund raiser will take place on Thursday, Feb 9; they are in the process of bringing on a new scholarship coordinator; they will be discussing any changes needed to their By-laws; the membership has approved the town wide yard sale in June 2023; Dine Out Club with Tom Irons is on Wed Feb 15; the travel committee has planned a Long Island Lighthouse Cruise on June 21; the Volunteer T-Shirts that were ordered are now in...cost \$18; last but not least, \$5 dues are now due and payable to the Friends of Mendon Elders.

Old Business

Food Pantry—Ann reported things are going along nicely; new volunteers are working out well; donated food continues to come in on a regular basis.

Senior Center Addition—Amy asked Phil to be our liaison with Dan Byer; Phil attended the recent Con-Com meeting which discussed coordination with the 52 Providence Rd project; some activity should be happening in the spring.

Driver Safety—Speed Limit Signs—seem to be slowing down traffic a little bit. The Board would like to see it be even slower near the Senior Center as it's a very congested area.

FY-24 Budget—the Fin-Com added an additional date of Mar 15 to meet with them and Amy would prefer that to Mar 1; the BOH proposed sharing trash pick-up with the Highway Dept; the COA Board doesn't think this is feasible; Amy suggested pick-up every other week but Board members said when we have a function involving food there is a lot more trash, including food waste, which would become smelly.

Staff/Board Training follow-up—took place on Jan 25 with Christine Bosisis; we had very good attendance; training went well; she focused on our Mission Statement.

Review & Sign Acceptable Behavior Policy—technically we have already reviewed, made changes and approved; Amy passed out the finalized copy; Peg read it aloud; Peg and Earl signed it.

Funding Requests for Friends—Amy and Peg met with Dottie Garceau to go over our funding requests; Friends will vote on the budget on Feb 13.

Goals/Events 2023—actually, we went over these last month; on March 2 is the Ukraine/Russia program and March 14 Orchestra of One.

Conflict of Interest & Ethics Training—haven't received the link from town clerk yet; Amy will forward it when it's available.

New Business

Annual Report—Melissa, Janet and Amy have been compiling statistics; town population has declined slightly but senior population has gone up from 24.7% to 27.7%.

Volunteer Appreciation—May 17—we have a magician for the entertainment; we need to plan the menu and decide a theme; Carol reminded us about the Cowboy theme we had decided upon before Covid hit and since items had already been acquired, we decided to go with that theme; Peg, Carol and Dona volunteered to be a sub-committee.

AARP Tax Preparation—Hopedale included us last year and will continue to do so; Amy has been unsuccessful in having it here being told we are not big enough.

Open Forum

Amy would like to put in a plug for the employees. Melissa is doing a great job all around, especially with the craft programs. Janet handles the bulk of the fuel assistance applications and has done two times as many as last year. Van drivers Wayne and Mark both go above and

beyond the call of duty; occasionally there are time conflicts when neither is available, ie, April 2023 school vacation there is no van service; Diane suggested contacting the schools for a possible school bus driver to fill in.

Phil passed out a pamphlet he put together consisting of things to consider from the 2022 Statewide COA Programs Workshop; as he said last month, we already do a lot of these.

Meeting adjourned 11:35

Next meeting March 8, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary