

COA Meeting Notes

February 9, 2022

Earl called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Members present: Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Diane Howell, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Peg Nogueira was absent due to being on vacation. Also attending: Friends' President, Dottie Garceau and Vice President, Betsy Edsall. It was a hybrid meeting at the Town Hall being recorded, so Earl had us go around the table and introduce ourselves and give our titles.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. At the presenting of the Treasurer's report, Amy mentioned that some of the donations received were from a high school student who held a fund raiser for the food pantry and another donation for the food pantry from Bank of NH. Amy's Director's report will be interspersed throughout.

Friends' President, Dottie Garceau, gave a brief Friends' report: they plan on giving a \$500 scholarship to a high school senior going to college and Betsy Edsall is heading up the scholarship fund. At 10:00 am on February 14 they are having a Valentine's Party prior to their monthly meeting. The annual Progressive Yard Sale will take place on June 11 with a rain date of June 12.

Old Business

Food Pantry—is going well. Janet Hubener is asking when clients will be able to come into the pantry to shop; consensus was too early; Carol's concern was poor ventilation in the basement; Earl said table to next meeting and evaluate monthly.

Staff Update/Training—Melissa Rezek is working out well so far; she is a quick learner; has great craft ideas.

Senior Center Architectural/Engineering Study—Amy spoke with Lawney Tinio of the Select Board requesting that we have a date for an in-person architectural presentation by the architect in order that seniors may attend. According to 2021 town census the senior population has grown to 1558 accounting for 24% of the town's population. Total population is 6309 which only went up slightly.

FY-23 Budget—same requests as last year; Amy will meet with FinCom and Select Board on March 2, 2022.

Friends of Elders Financial Requests—Amy gave Dottie and Betsy items for their discussion at their Feb 14 meeting: Beautification \$500; Fly the Flag \$150; program supplies and food;

entertainment (3 cultural council requests are in progress; 2 are approved; 1 awaiting approval). What Friends decide would be in addition to these.

Goals/Events for 2022—we discussed the 2020 schedule of events and programs which was put on hold due to Covid; we are hopeful that many of these events will be able to take place this year.

New Business

SHINE Mailing—SHINE has requested that we provide names of people approaching age 65 so they can mail a health insurance brochure to them.

AARP Tax Preparation Services—Amy received a call from Hopedale Senior Center who is using this service and they invited us to send lower to moderate income clients to them.

Transportation Invitation—Hopedale has a partnership with Milford for medical appointments, and now they have their own MA RTA shared errands van, which they are not using enough, so they have invited us to participate with them.

Open Forum

Earl asked Amy for a fuel assistance update; average household getting \$500-\$800 with a few over \$1000; there are some snags; SMOC has a new roster of workers.

Amy informed us that Janet is handling the smoke detector replacement program through the fire dept; there is a nutrition program on Zoom; Milford Hospital is ready to accept aphgans again; Amy wants to have another Tri-Valley caregiver program; there will be a program dealing with fraud this spring.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 am. Next meeting March 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary