

## COA Meeting Notes

January 12, 2022

Peg called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. As this was our first hybrid meeting held at the Town Hall and was being recorded, she asked that we each introduce ourselves. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Diane Howell, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously accepted. Amy gave a brief verbal Director's report with the rest being interspersed throughout. Amy said December was a very busy month in which she and Janet worked with the Lion's Club, Thimble Pleasures, St. Gabriel's and various individuals to provide Christmas gifts for seniors, families and under-age school children. Also, she notified all Mendon Minstrels about rehearsal postponement until January 31, when the Covid situation will be reassessed. She submitted our FY23 budget. Earl mentioned he heard on the news there will be a Federal increase in fuel assistance. The December 16 program sponsored by the Cultural Council had 5 children and 3 adults in attendance plus staff members.

Peg gave a brief Friends' report: Dottie Garceau was installed as President on Monday, January 10, 2022. Outgoing President, Sue Carlson, was presented with a beautiful floral bouquet from the COA. In the future, all monies received by the Friends will be placed in an envelope and deposited into a lock box on the wall near the defibrillator box.

### Old Business

Food Pantry—currently about 30 regular clients which can vary five up or down depending upon the month. In 2021, 313 orders were filled and 147 delivered. A volunteer donated \$100 worth of laundry detergent. We continue to receive donations and remain well stocked. When we are approached for donations, we will specify the items we are low on or out of.

Architectural Study—Amy passed out the latest architectural drawings, with which she is very pleased. The architect listens and tweaks things accordingly. Tonight's presentation to the Select Board is cancelled due to Covid concerns as the Select Board has gone to remote meetings.

FY23 Budget/Grant Funding—the budget was submitted; it is the same as the past five years. Salary adjustments will be made by Town Admin and the employees' union. There is grant money that needs to be used by June 30; Amy will work with the COA co-chairs to determine what we need.

Friends' Funding Requests—Amy said the past two years, we haven't requested much due to no major fund raising taking place. They do continue to fund Beatification and Fly the Flag. Peg suggested we ask them to continue funding holiday gift bags. Amy asked how we would feel about the Friends waiving transportation fees for events that they sponsor, as their transportation account is in good shape? No one on the board objected.

Recreational Trips—Diane reported the LaSalette trip was very enjoyable. Four people attended the Nutcracker performance.

Holiday Meals—the Ferrucci holiday dinner had a surprise menu change to chicken parmesan with penne pasta and it was very good. Ann will send Dick and Betty a thank you from the COA. The Tri-valley holiday lunch on Dec 23 was well attended and enjoyed by all. Amy mentioned that Ann suggested going back to using the poly-urethane table dividers during Thursday lunches due to Covid concerns. Ann said what brought this up was whether we should require face masks be worn in the center. The BOH is leaving this decision up to individual departments. The consensus was that face masks should be worn. The February 10 Tri-Valley lunch will have a Valentine theme with simple decorations, piano by Earl and individual boxes of chocolates for everyone, including the grab n'go folks.

Staff Updates—Melissa Rezek, our new admin assistant, will start on Tuesday January 18.

#### New Business

Annual Report 2021—is due January 14; Amy will summarize all programs, groups we have worked with, etc. Peg and Earl talked about ABMI cable and making sure we get enough publicity for our events and things we do.

Goals and Events for 2022—Amy said she will use a previous document as a template, which we can review.

Yearly Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement—is due to Town Clerk by April 5, 2022.

#### Open Forum

Amy said a person emailed Dan Byer and herself about installing a pickle ball court at the senior center. However, it doesn't make much sense for us now due to pending expansion and construction.

Amy needs to order another plaque board for Seniors of the Year as the current one is filled. It will cost \$360 and there is grant money to pay for it.

Peg made a motion to reimburse Amy from our gift account for the flowers for Sue Carlson. Diane seconded. All approved.

Finally, Amy said she plans to ask the Select Board to increase the hourly rate for senior/veteran tax abatement workers from \$11 to \$12, which is still under minimum wage of \$14.25. Workers would work 83 hours instead of 91, so no additional money would be coming out of the assessors' overlay account.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.      Next meeting February 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary