

## COA Meeting Notes

July 12, 2023

Peg called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Earl Pearlman, Diane Howell, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Phil Cieply joined us on Zoom from the Finger Lakes. Members absent: Carol Kotros and Dona Son. Also present: Dottie Garceau, retiring Friends' President.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. When discussing the Treasurer's report, Amy asked us to vote on having one of the Co-chairs approve an expense, such as a bereavement gift or something needed for a planned event, like the cake for the Senior of the Year. Peg made the motion, Diane seconded, all approved. Also, some salary money was turned back to the town because part time workers don't get paid for holidays and days off so Amy and Melissa are discussing her working extra hours or picking up another day when there is a Monday holiday.

Director's Report: Amy reported they've been very busy with Outreach projects; van was inspected and registration renewed; fire extinguishers inspected and approved; folks using the computer lab upstairs are neglecting to sign out; Amy contacted World Band to clean everything out, now she will contact participants individually to tell them to sign out and also notes will be posted; air conditioner upstairs is not working but we do have a spare; Amy met with Jen O'Neill, our new HR person and David Demanche, interim Town Administrator to discuss van position opening and Tax Abatement(Work Off) Program.

Friends' Report: Dottie Garceau gave the report; Friends and COA members will participate in the Taft Library Cardboard Boat contest on July 25; the Friends will be serving fancy tea sandwiches at the senior tea on July 30; beginning August 1, fancy basket donations of non-perishables will be accepted for the Fall Frenzy Fund Raiser raffle on Sept 23; they are still looking for nominations for 2024 officers which includes President, Vice President and Secretary and will be voted on at their November meeting; they have formed a search committee to help find people to nominate.

### Old Business

Food Pantry—we recently stocked up on paper goods, some food items and laundry detergent; some stock is depleting which is allowing us to keep up with expired dates; first Friday of the month has about 13 clients, some new ones, and they are able to shop two at a time; once

again we approved the flyer for insert in the town's Free Press for needed items for the November food drive.

Senior Center Expansion—Phil reported that the Select Board approved the building committee; Brothers of the Brush will help to promote and advertise our activities; on Aug 1 there will be a formal meeting to put together the structure of the committee and bring on the designer and engineer to get those designs going; in November there will be an informal presentation at the special town meeting; we need to make a major effort to keep marketing strong to reach every voter in town; we need to make our presence known by attending and participating in all upcoming town activities; target date for expansion completion 2025.

COA Cookout—7/19/23—same menu as last year: hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, Greek salad, watermelon and ice cream sandwiches.

Out of towners are on a waiting list to give Mendon seniors first priority. We decided the Highway Dept will be invited to come for take-out as space is limited.

Senior Tea—7/30/23—Earl on piano; in addition to the Friend's fancy tea sandwiches, there will be pie for dessert; set-up on Friday July 28 at 10am; 84 invitations were sent out to seniors 85 and older; a few out of towners who are active at the center were included.

Ice Cream Social—8/23/23—entertainment at 1pm Timothy Brooks "Crooner at Large"; 2pm ice cream sundaes will be served. Yum!

Staff Vacations—Melissa will be out week of July 17; Amy is out Aug 7-18, returning to center Aug 21.

Social Media/Marketing—Diane will take photos and volunteer, Carolyn Wass, will post our events on Facebook; Amy will continue to utilize the Free Press newspaper.

UMass Boston Inclusion Survey—Amy completed the second and final survey which focused on the senior center; the first survey was more town oriented; the Select Board may choose to review its position regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.

Volunteer Appreciation—4/24/24—Cultural Council deadline is Oct 15 for applying for entertainment grant; Amy suggested Roger Tincknell's "Pete Seeger to Peter, Paul & Mary" which includes folk songs & sing-alongs from 60's folk music. Everyone thought this theme would work.

#### New Business

Mendon Minstrels—Dave Clinkman has offered to conduct with reevaluation in a year; first rehearsal Sept 25 @ 1pm; he is willing to step aside if someone qualified to direct comes

forward; Amy reached out to Marge West to see if she would be interested in partial participation, like singing with the chorus or maybe directing a couple of songs for the Veteran's Breakfast on November 10; Dave has a few requests: he would like a dolly to be able to turn the piano around and also to be paid for any music that is purchased.

Out of Town Participants—we previously discussed having them on a waiting list.

Senior Work Off Program—there are 10 participants this year; the assessors overlay account was reduced this year; Amy is working with HR and Town Admin to get this clarified; she also would like to get the hourly rate up to state minimum wage which would then require less hours of work.

Senior of the Year Event—9/17/23—a Lion's Club event; we provide the cake; Anne and Russ Dudley are this year's honorees; Amy has invited our State Senator and State Rep; Amy will discuss with Lion's rep having more intimate table arrangements.

Open Forum

Boston 25 New's Zip Trip to Southwick Zoo was moved from this Friday to Thursday due to weather concerns; Peg and Amy will share talking points, such as, mission statement, programs like the cardboard boat race and senior tea, food pantry, fuel assistance, Friends of the Elders and Senior Center Expansion; they will be on between 9:30 & 10:00 for about 15 minutes.

Meeting adjourned 12:04 pm. Next meeting Sept 13, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary

