

COA Meeting Notes

July 14, 2021

Peg called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Diane Howell, Carol Kotros, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Earl Pearlman and Jenn Talamini were absent. No Friends members were present.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a verbal director's report, much of which will be interspersed throughout the agenda. The first week in June was devoted to Progressive Yard sale preparations; she is now working on the Senior Tax Abatement Program; the plaque board with names of Seniors of the Year is full so we will need another board and will discuss later on how to pay for it; Panera Bread is back on Wednesdays; chair exercise is back; SHINE is running well; the Sheriff's picnic for seniors will be drive-thru this year on August 21, a sign-up sheet is on the table.

Friends' Update: the Branson Missouri trip is cancelled due to Covid concerns down south.

Old Business

Food Pantry—the consensus is that the safest way for now is to continue filling orders for the clients.

Transportation/Re-opening—van is up and running; due to it being idle for such a long time, it did not pass emissions testing; Steve Howley is working with us on this; the Center is open but activities are progressing slowly; we decided to allow the pitch league to come in on Thursday nights as cleaning takes place on Friday; the Girl Scouts will be invited back on Monday nights as cleaning takes place on Tuesday morning.

Program Updates—Tri-Valley Congregate meals: depending upon Covid uptick, we are considering resuming in September with alternating Tuesday and Thursday lunches; next Grab n'Go lunch is Tuesday, August 24 and folks will be allowed to eat inside if they wish.

ABMI Update: we will revisit in September due to Jenn's absence today.

Volunteer Appreciation—on hold

30th Anniversary—on hold

Architect/Engineering Update—Amy passed out the architect’s potential schematic design indicating square footage of individual areas for our review. Discussion ensued and the consensus was that it adequately meets our needs with a few minor tweaks.

FY22 Budget—due to Mendon voters twice not approving the 2 ½ override for the schools and if negotiations fail between the school committee and Mendon and Upton Select boards, it may be necessary to have a joint town meeting tentatively on Saturday, August 7th. Therefore, a hiring freeze is currently in place which means we can’t advertize for an admin assistant. Senior Tax Abatement workers are still eligible to work.

Senior Citizen Day—Amy received an email from Lions’ President, Mark Bucchino, stating that they feel it’s not their place to decide how to celebrate this event, rather the board that chose the recipients should decide. Therefore, we went back to our original idea of having a parade on the third Sunday in September, the 19th, followed by a brief ceremony on Senior Center grounds.

Plumbing Repairs have been completed. Doorbells were installed in the building to ring up and downstairs.

Summer Events—senior cookout was cancelled due to the attendance limitations that would have been necessary. The senior tea drive- thru will take place on Saturday, July 31, from 10am-12pm. We discussed items to include in the package, such as, pocket calendars, pens, tea bags, cookies, etc. and everyone will receive a flower.

New Business

Master Plan—the senior center is being asked for input and Kathy Schofield of the Master Plan Committee is our representative.

Staff Updates/Postings—we need one additional van driver to even out the days and since it is not a new position, but a shared position, there shouldn’t be a problem. Amy will discuss with town admin; as previously stated, there will be no new job postings due to hiring freeze.

Open Forum

Since there is no COA meeting in August, we discussed moving the September meeting to Sept 1st in order to have some time before Senior Citizen Day. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis, Secretary