

COA Meeting Notes

March 13, 2024

Peg called the meeting to order at 10:02am. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Phil Cieply, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Absent: Diana Howell and Dona Son. Also present: Alejna Brugo, COA/Select Board liaison and Susan Edmondson, Friends' Vice President and COA liaison.

The Secretary and Treasurers reports were unanimously approved. Amy said she was busy with the annual report, statistics and training senior tax abatement workers. Her Director's report will be interspersed throughout.

Friends' Report: Susan Edmondson reported that they held their meeting on March 11, 2024. Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. They are still accepting dues memberships and hope to increase the number. A survey form was created by President Carolyn Wass to find out what programs members would like to see offered as well as their own skill sets. To seek support for the new Senior Community Center, they will hold open houses on March 22 at 1pm and April 24 at 6:30 pm. Peg and Phil stressed the need for seniors to attend the ATM on May 3 to vote yes for the new center. When Susan finished, a discussion followed about getting seniors to attend the ATM meeting. Alejna suggested getting a list of voters from the town clerk and separating out those over age 60 to send a reminder postcard and asking if they need transportation and giving a contact number. Amy said the senior center has the ability to make a general reminder robo call and general email reminder as well.

Old Business

Food Pantry—things continue to go along well; Amy recently sent a list of needed items to her Facebook contact to which we always have good results.

Senior Center Expansion—Phil said they last met on March 12 to review the Article for the ATM; there is CPA funding available for walking trails, Pickle Ball, Basketball, Shuffleboard and Bocci courts; they discussed all avenues of communication messaging to the voters; they voted to approve an additional \$5000 for the architect, which is still under budget; they will purchase 100 signs to be distributed around town; ABMI has agreed so far to videotape the first Open House; they discussed the impact to property taxes ; they discussed grants and other funding.

FY25 Budget—3/37/24—meeting with FinCom and Select Board; Amy will be meeting with Jody Kurczy next week to tweak the budget before the meeting.

Annual Report—has been submitted; Amy thanked everyone for their input; she provided a list of all Senior Center Services for 2023.

Volunteer Appreciation—April 10, 2024—campfire theme; Roger Tincknell is the entertainer; sub-committee will meet to iron out details; preliminary menu: chili, corn bread and s'mores.

New Business

New Monthly Program—starting on May 7 at 10am, Salmon VNA will offer a diabetes and nutrition program in conjunction with the blood pressure clinic.

Tri-Valley Lunch Program—numbers have been dwindling due to health issues and popularity of food choices; Amy asked us to think of solutions for next month's meeting.

Vacation Schedules—Amy and Janet have vacation time accumulating; Janet will be taking some Mondays and Thursdays off; Amy will take some Wednesdays off and May 1-7 off.

Pen Pal Opportunity—Amy was contacted by an 8th grader at Benjamin Franklin Charter School in Franklin who would like to involve 25 seniors in a letter writing program; Amy spoke with her advisor and would like to move ahead for a fall program beginning in September; recruiting senior pen pals in June.

Open Forum—no one had anything.

Meeting adjourned 11:08 am. Next meeting April 3, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary