

COA Meeting Notes

November 8, 2023

Earl called the meeting to order at 10:04am. Members present: Earl Pearlman, Peg Nogueira, Carol Kotros, Diane Howell, Phil Cieply, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Dona Son was absent. Also in attendance: Alejna Brugos, Select Board/COA liaison; Betsy Edsall, Friends/COA liaison and Carolyn Wass, incoming Friends' President.

The meeting was being recorded so Earl had us introduce ourselves with our titles.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave her Director's report: the van has new brakes; the Fire Chief is updating fire extinguishers for all town buildings; Boy Scout Kyle Miller contacted Amy and is still planning the outside library cabinet; Amy said everyone who uses our building off hours needs to be reminded to make sure the door is locked when they leave; the Tri-Valley Caregivers program will now have a fee; Nipmuc Student Council members raked leaves for seniors in need of this service; Amy worked with BOH to have regional mobile unit administer flu and Covid shots for those unable to attend a clinic; Upcoming programs: Tech Talk November 14 and Grief Support November 16 in Uxbridge.

Betsy presented the Friends' report: at their Oct 16 meeting they voted to approve those who volunteered to hold office positions; installation of officers will take place in January; Sue Edmondson will be the new Friends/COA liaison; Phil and Peg updated those in attendance on the senior center expansion; next meeting is on November 13; the Christmas Fair and Bake Sale is on Saturday Dec 2 from 10am-3pm; on Monday December 11 the Friends will meet and have a gift exchange; on December 22 the Jazz Band/Acapella Group from Nipmuc High will perform; the New Year's Flapper Theme Party will be on December 28 with DJ Chris with a cost of \$5.00 for lunch; Tom Irons, chair of the Dine Out Group is working on new destinations for 2024.

Old Business

Food Pantry Update—the Nov 4 Scout Food Drive was very successful with food continuing to come in all week; there were some generous monetary donations, as well, which will help with food gift cards and other seasonal food needs.

Senior Center Expansion—Phil provided us all with an updated information packet which contained a flyer listing all the reasons we need a bigger building; the flyer was distributed to voters before the Special Town Meeting on Nov 6; the results of the site analysis were presented in graph form so we could see site preferences; there was a 2022 traffic study report for the roadways at each site; on Nov 14 the committee will vote on site selection with a final decision by Nov 28; the week of Nov 20 the architect will meet with the requirements

committee to review revised plans and give a ballpark estimate; on Nov 28 the committee will review the design plan; on Dec 1 committee meets with Select Board; on Jan 1, 2024 provide estimator PM&C with building design; on Feb 1, 2024 architect to deliver complete packages and site to be selected and on May 1, 2024 the committee will present package to the Select Board.

Program Follow-ups—Halloween Hat Party with Music Bingo was well attended and lots of fun; the Fire Dept/BOH seminars were very educational and informative.

Veteran's Breakfast—Nov 10—plans are shaping up well and ready to go; 40 gift cards were donated by M&M Medical, one of the sponsors.

Holiday Programs—Dec 6, Ferucci's Holiday Dinner; Dec 7, Misco 6th grade chorus at 10am; Dec 14, Mendon Minstrels Holiday Concert at 11am; Dec 21, Tri-Valley Holiday Meal with Nipmuc Jazz Band/Acapella Group at 11am; Dec 28, New Years Flapper Theme Party with DJ Chris from 11am-1pm.

Penpal Program with Clough School follow-up—Amy said she hasn't gotten back to the school principal yet; she wants to know how we feel about having the program; we were all doubtful how we could handle 60 students and get 60 senior penpals since the principal wants all 4th grade classes to participate at the same time; we decided to table it to next fall.

New Business

Van Driver/Santa Wayne's last date to work at the center until January is Nov 21.

FY-25 Budget—Amy hasn't heard anything from the interim Town Administrator but said it was suggested we try for a full time admin assistant because 18 hours isn't sufficient to do the job. 32 individuals have applied so far for admin position and HR narrowed it down to 11 possible candidates to interview beginning next week.

Holiday Schedule—Amy is not planning a Christmas vacation this year; Thimble Pleasures will again sponsor one family for Christmas; Lions will have Giving Trees set up in various locations; St. Gabriels will again purchase gifts for seniors coordinated with Janet Hubener; Brothers of the Brush will once again deliver Thanksgiving Dinners to those in need.

Meeting adjourned 11:25. Next meeting December 13, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary