

COA Meeting Notes

October 4, 2023

Peg called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Diane Howell, Phil Cieply, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Dona Son was on vacation. Also present, Betsy Edsall, Friends' liaison, and Alejna Brugos, COA/Select Board liaison.

Director's Report: September was a busy month with many meetings; two meetings were with the Select Board to discuss the Senior Tax Abatement Program; Select Board approved increasing hourly rate to \$15 with a cap of \$1500 per participant per fiscal year; Amy attended Rock the Block to man our booth; she also attended the Senior of the Year celebration; the BOH rep came in to review our lunch program procedures which are very strict through Tri-Valley and she was pleased; there is a fire safety program on Thursday, November 2; Mendon Minstrels are rehearsing again on Monday; a dolly was adhered to our piano for ease of movement; Peg made a motion to approve \$50 from the gift account for a gift card for the tuner since he has been so good to us, Diane seconded, all approved; Fun & Function fitness program had 6 sign up but only 3 attended which was disappointing because Friends are paying for it; Qigong currently has 8 signed up; other fitness programs are going well; fuel assistance applications have been delayed due to low staffing issues; van ceiling leak was repaired; UMass Diversity issue was passed on to the Select Board; Admin Assistant, Melissa, gave her resignation and Oct 17 is her last day.

Friends report: their last meeting was on Sept 11 where they finalized plans for the Fall Frenzy, which turned out to be very successful despite the rainy day; next meeting is on Monday, Oct 16; several members have volunteered to serve as officers; they are Caroline Wass, Susan & John Edmundson and JoAnn Mondor; Dottie Garceau volunteered to be the scholarship coordinator; two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded.

Old Business

Food Pantry—Scout Food Drive Saturday, November 4—insert of needed items will be in the October edition of Mendon Free Press; donations can be dropped off at Clough School from 8am to 12 noon.

Senior Center Expansion—Phil reported that things are moving along; update on the Building Site Assessment document is in process; sewerage and well location update will be provided by Jack Hunter; Select board will provide an update on the Architect contract; the architect will provide design specifications; other possible sites have been reviewed; next committee meeting will be about messaging.

Rock the Block follow-up—we gave out 66 raffle tickets for the tri-color mum and 90 glow sticks to the kids; it was a lot of fun and a successful event.

Senior of the Year Celebration—set up was more intimate this year; food was delicious; a very nice event; Russ and Anne Dudley were very appreciative.

Upcoming Programs:

Oct 31—Halloween Hat Party with Music Bingo; pizza & salad lunch

Nov 2—Fire Dept/BOH—Fire/Home Safety, Emergency Preparedness

Nov 10—Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast—sponsors: police & M&M Health in coordination with the COA; gift cards will be given to attendees; Mendon Minstrels will present a patriotic program

Dec 6—COA Holiday Dinner sponsored by the Ferruccis

Dec 14—Mendon Minstrels Holiday Concert—discuss menu next month

Dec 21—Tri-Valley Holiday Meal—Peg felt we should have some form of entertainment

Dec 28—New Year Celebration—Diane is chairman, roaring 20's theme, variety of appetizers and desserts

New Business

Intergenerational program with Clough School; Cheryl Lemon is interested in reintroducing the penpal program; the new principal wants all 4th grade classes to participate which involves 60 students; Peg and Diane, who were former coordinators, discussed their experiences; we decided to table for now and discuss further off site as it would be a very big undertaking.

Open Forum

Trunk or Treat-Oct 29-Memorial Field—12-2pm—sponsored by Custom Homes; Dottie, Diane & Peg are coordinating; pass out candy and handouts re: S.C. expansion; proceeds go to Mendon Food Pantry.

Betsy said a Scout at Rock the Block said he's doing the outdoor library book cabinet at the S.C. so the project is still on

Janet is on vacation week of Oct 23'

Amy received a call about a Chili Bake-off and asked Peg to get more info; it's on Oct 21 at 45 Uxbridge Rd; entrants have to make 2 gallons of chili; Friends and COA will participate; proceeds go to first responders.

Meeting adjourned 12:05pm

Next meeting: November 8th

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary