

COA Meeting Notes

September 6, 2023

Earl called the meeting to order at 10:18 am. Members present: Earl Pearlman, Peg Nogueira, Carol Kotros, Phil Cieply, Dona Son, Diane Howell, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Also present: Friends' members Betsy Edsall and Dorothy Garceau and COA/Select Board Liaison, Alejna Brugos.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a brief Director's report: we had a cicada killer infestation in the perennial garden and Dewey Pest Control came and sprayed. Also, the outside auto lights were not working so an electrician came and installed new sensor lights. Other Director's notes will be interspersed throughout.

Friends' report: Betsy Edsall reported that their first meeting after the break is on Monday, September 11. Their Fall Frenzy Fundraiser will be on Saturday, September 23 from 9-3:30 at which time the basket raffle drawing will take place. There will be a bake sale, knitted and quilted items, books and the always popular theme baskets for raffle. They will also participate in the Lions Country Fair at Daniels Farm in Blackstone on Saturday, Oct 7. The trip committee is planning more trips. The Dine Out Bunch has several lunches planned. The election of officers will be on Monday, Oct 2. They are looking for volunteers to serve as President, Vice President and Secretary.

Old Business

Food Pantry—the Boy Scout Food Drive will be on Saturday, November 4. Amy has spoken with the owners of Mendon Upton Free Press about the flier indicating needed items which will be included in the October issue.

S.C. Expansion Update—Phil gave each of us a packet containing information re: the expansion. A committee has been formed with Phil as chairman, Chief Kurczy as Vice Chair and Peg as interim secretary. Before presenting anything at ATM we have to do our due diligence making sure we have explored all options for the location of the center. So far the committee has visited 3 sites: corner North Ave and Rte 16, corner North Ave and Hopedale St, the Morrison Ave property as well as our current location. They are ranking pros and cons of each location and would like feedback from the COA members. Phil would like to have a ballpark figure by year's end.

Summer Programs—the cookout, senior tea and ice cream social were all very successful; plenty of volunteers; Friends helped out with funding.

Social Media/Marketing—for S.C. programming; Melissa does post on Facebook but Peg would like to see postings increased as the goal is to get our name and faces out into the public eye; ABMI is also a good place to advertise what we are doing.

UMass Boston Inclusion/Diversity Survey—Amy will be discussing this at the Select Board meeting as the town needs to take leadership.

Volunteer Appreciation—April 17, 2024—the committee is Peg, Carol, Diane, Dona and Amy. The theme had to be decided in order to apply for the Cultural Council grant so after reviewing the 60's theme folk songs, it was decided Roger Tincknell's Campfire theme has a better song line-up.

Cultural Council Grant Applications—in addition to Roger Tincknell, Amy is applying for Sheryl Faye to perform as Amelia Earhart on May 8, 2024.

Senior/Veteran Tax Abatement Program—Amy along with HR is asking the Select Board to consider raising the hourly rate from \$11 to \$15 with a \$1500 max per participant equaling 100 work hours. The purpose is to be more competitive and attract qualified people to apply.

Senior of the Year—September 17—Anne and Russ Dudley are this year's recipients; they both come from large families and have several grandchildren themselves, so having 2 fire trucks is being considered; Amy is coordinating with the Lion's Club on details.

New Business

Rock the Block—Sept 9—2-10pm—COA and Friends are teaming up to be sponsors of the event each paying \$50; as exhibitors they will have to set up their booth between 11-1:00; Peg created a schedule with Dottie G. for manning the booth between 2 and 7pm; Phil is having a poster made of senior activities and contributions titled Making A Difference in the Lives of Others; a free raffle for a tri-colored mum and some kind of free snack for kids will be included.

Acceptable Behavior Policy—will be handled in executive session with COA members only present; we need to discuss two separate behavioral incidents and determine whether changes need to be made to the behavioral policy.

Holiday Programs—Ferruccis' Holiday Meal on Wed Dec 6; Minstrel's concert and lunch Dec 14; Friend's New Year's Eve Bash with Roaring 20's Theme Dec 28. The tree decorating will be on November 30.

Open Forum

Dottie spoke briefly about the Fall Frenzy urging everyone to come on Sat Sept 23, shop and buy basket raffle tickets.

Peg would like to register us to participate in Trunk or Treat at Memorial Park on Sunday, October 29; donations are accepted and proceeds go to Mendon Food Pantry. All approved. We can discuss details at Oct meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12 noon. Next meeting October 4, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary