

COA Meeting Notes

September 9, 2020

Teleconference via the Town of Mendon conference call line 774-462-5991 code 1233

Earl called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Those participating: Earl Pearlman, Peg Nogueira, Diane Howell, Jenn Talamini, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson Kent. Carol Kotros was absent. Sue Carlson from The Friends also participated.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave her Director's report: she was on vacation for 2 weeks in August so does not have a lot to report. She did have a meeting with Town Admin Kim who came down to the center to see how things have been set up. Amy addressed several issues with her: 1) Outreach visits with limited contact approved by Kim 2) Food Pantry use of volunteer or senior worker received tentative approval 3) Senior Tax Abatement Program still up in the air 4) Van Transport for medical appointments; Kim is encouraging us to accept the town's electric car; Earl said it could be a back-up for double booked appointments 5) Book Fair-Kim is in favor of The Friends having the book fair; she thinks she can buy or rent a tent for us out of her budget; Peg thought several small tents would be good for social distancing; Diane, who is chairman for the event, thought a combination of both would work well. The date was set for October 16, 17 & 18, 2020. Amy will make calls for prices on buying or renting a tent.

Old Business

Food Pantry—Amy said it's running smoothly; regarding volunteer help, Kim said when Amy sends out letters confirming tax abatement hours to ask folks if they still want to participate in the program; Amy needs our permission to put a flyer in The Crier in November outlining food pantry needs; Peg made a motion that we allow Amy to do this paying out of the food pantry budget; Earl seconded; all approved. Amy doesn't know yet if the Scouts are having their annual food drive, but we had a discussion about wiping down cans and boxes of donated food. Peg suggested the donated items be left in labeled boxes in the garage for a few days for any germs to die off.

ABMI Cable Program—Jenn has been discussing possible programs and interviews with Amy; Earl asked about incorporating Seniors of the Year and Jenn said she plans on it.

Volunteer Appreciation—the town Subway sponsor is still interested in coordinating with us; right now he is very busy with the schools; no date set yet; Peg suggested having it in November fairly close to Thanksgiving with a "Giving Thanks" theme.

30th Anniversary—John Trainor is working diligently on the video for cable TV; Peg said the committee is waiting to see if the senior center will open soon; Earl suggested possibly having a screen set up outdoors to show the video; Diane thought because we have so much on our plate this fall that we should move the event to the spring; Earl and Peg said we could advertise with teasers in the fall to generate interest. Amy and the board agreed to celebrate the anniversary in the spring.

Seniors of the Year—September 27, 1pm--Amy heard from Mark Bucchino and The Lions are all for supporting whatever we want to do; we talked of a small parade up and down Millville Street where Dottie lives and Wayne lives off of; Earl suggested we have ABMI's drone fly over; Peg suggested a flower lei for Dottie and a life preserver with Senior of the Year on it to go around Wayne's neck; Jenn suggested looking into My FM's sound system to broadcast music; Amy will keep us in the loop with progress being made.

Reopening Consideration—see previous Director's notes. Peg did say that priority should be given to food pantry, fuel assistance, medical, Outreach, etc. and not requests to come use the center's library. We all agreed.

New Business

Staff Update--Amy has updated the Admin Assistant's job description and forwarded it to HR.

Open Forum

Everyone was all set.

Meeting adjourned 11:05am. Next meeting October 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary