

COA Meeting Notes

September 1, 2021

Peg called the meeting to order at 10am. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Carol Kotros, Diane Howell, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Earl Pearlman was absent.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a verbal Director's report: in July and August she worked on the Senior Tea event with Janet; she was on vacation the middle two weeks in August; van drivers Wayne and Mark are back and making themselves very useful at the center while the van is repaired; our requested FY22 budget was approved; the remainder of Amy's report will be interspersed throughout.

Friends' Report: Cheryl Kearsley was covering the phones and gave us a brief overview of what is happening with the Friends. They have a meeting on Monday, Sept 13, at 10am to plan for the future. They are in need of both President and Vice President. They want to find ways to build up their membership. They would like board members to do more.

Old Business

Food Pantry Update—two National Honor Society candidates who needed volunteer hours thoroughly cleaned the food pantry; another candidate plans to conduct a food drive mid September; there are presently about 20 clients per month; we plan to continue filling clients orders at least until spring; Scout Food Drive is coming up in November; once a month Amy would like to have bulk fruits and veggies for food pantry and folks in general to replace the former Whole Foods produce donations, to which we all agreed to give it a try.

S.C. Transportation—our van is back from Howley's; a simple button that controls the lift and affects the whole operation of the van was replaced, as well as updated software since the van is 9 years old.

Program Updates—next congregate meal is Thursday, September 16; there will be a strength training for seniors program at 11am followed by barbeque chicken dinner; there are 4-5 volunteers for Tri-Valley training for the lunch program; Amy is looking at September 30 for another meal date as the menu is hotdogs, beans and cole slaw, a very popular choice.

ABMI Cable Program is currently on hold due to Jenn Talamini's resignation from the COA board; she has obtained a full time position at Whitinsville Christian School and will no longer be available to us; Amy read us her very beautiful resignation letter which will be presented to the Select Board.

Senior Tea Drive Thru Update—81 invitations were sent out to seniors 85+ and 22 responded; they each received a carnation and a gift bag filled with all kinds of goodies both edible and useful; Ann read thank you's from two of the participants.

S.C. Architectural Update—Amy heard from the architect asking what is next; Town Admin Kim suggested we present it to the Select Board soon to keep it on the town radar even though funding is not there now; we are aiming for late Oct or early Nov to make the presentation.

FY22 Budget—as previously stated our budget request was approved in full.

Senior Citizens Day Event—Sept 19—Police and Fire Chief are on board for a rolling parade kicking off at 1pm from the fire station; our van will be in the parade this year; entertainer Davis Bates, singer and storyteller, will perform Celebrating New England at the S.C. while the parade is going on; a presentation ceremony will take place following the parade.

Building Improvements—Mark Rousseau has been power washing the exterior of the building as well as wire brushing and painting the steel beams downstairs.

Staff Updates/Postings—application time for S.C. Admin Assistant ended August 30; there was a huge response; interviews in October.

New Business

Board Vacancies—there are currently two vacancies on the COA Board which will be posted by the Select Board; Amy will request for the COA to have input to make sure of a good fit.

Scout Food Drive—will be in November date TBD; we gave Amy permission to pay for flyers in The Crier listing food pantry needs.

Veterans Appreciation—will be held in November; we decided to do same as last year; letter of appreciation will be sent to all vets in town; gift certificates will be given to all respondees; Amy will contact Police who have been sponsors in past years.

Open Forum

Diane brought up the speeding issue on Providence Rd; Amy will talk to Alan Tetreault about installing flashing lights to slow down traffic on Providence Rd in front of the S.C.; there is money still left in this year's grant that could pay for this.

Next meeting: October 13, 2021. Meeting adjourned 12:05 pm. Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary