

COA Meeting Notes
March 12, 2014

Jim called meeting to order 9:05am. Members present: Jim Negri, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Kevin Rudden, Mary Ann Hopkins and Ann Vandersluis. Bob Carlson absent. Also present: Friends' President, Sue Carlson and Director, Amy Wilson Kent.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave us a verbal director's report with hard copy to follow. Senior Center land was surveyed and it was suggested 2 ½ acres would be sufficient for expansion. Amy advised Anne Mazar that we still need 5 acres per advice of another senior center's architect. Amy attended a training meeting in Upton on how to deal with difficult coworkers and attendees. Jay Byer tuned the piano. The emergency hatch on the van was damaged a second time. The insurance has a \$500 deductible which will have to come out of our budget's van line item making us short for gas. It was suggested to ask Friends for help. Sue will put it on their agenda for April's meeting.

Sue gave a brief Friends' report. They voted to purchase 4 refurbished computers for upstairs. There are 26 persons scheduled for April's trip to PA. The liability release form needs to be reviewed by town's attorney.

Old Business

Food Pantry—Carol had no new updates. Everything is going well. Amy said there will be some new clients. Jim suggested setting aside spam and jelly for the Wed nite clients.

Senior Center Expansion—article was passed over at STM because appraisal was not done. Subcommittee consisting of Earl, Kevin, Jim and Amy will meet after our regular meeting to discuss our future needs.

Senior Community Service Employment Program—Operation Able—Amy received additional information on this program. Question on supervision not answered. Due to Amy's very busy schedule, time constraints and the need to train this person, Kevin made a motion that we not participate in this program. Earl seconded. Unanimously approved.

Volunteer Appreciation—we voted to have soup, salad and sandwiches again this year. Jim will make his homemade soup. A committee consisting of Carol, Mary Ann, Ann and Amy will work out details. We opted to go for the volunteer pins again, too.

MIIA Building Inspection Report—Kevin said none of the report items related to handicap issues. We have cleared up most housekeeping issues. Trimming bushes back from building front will be done in the spring by the Beautification Committee.

New Business

Senior of the Year form—need to be a Mendon resident age 60 or older. Mary Ann suggested using the COA application as a basis. She will work on a draft for review at April's meeting.

Open Forum

Regarding the town budget gap, there are presently no potential cuts for the senior center.

Mass Council on Aging (MCOA) suggests thanking our reps and senators for their support of our grant budgets.

A federal program called Benefits Checkup can help people in need to link up with as many as 30 organizations that could assist them, just by entering their data into the computer. Amy has agreed to be host for a 90 minute presentation of the program on April 2 at 1:30 pm. Area towns will be invited to attend, consisting predominately of outreach workers.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 am.

Cc: Jim Negri

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Vandersluis
Secretary