

COA Meeting Notes

March 13, 2019

Kevin called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Members present: Kevin Rudden, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Brenda Rienzo, Mary Ann Hopkins, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Also present: Friends' member Diana Carter. Absent: Peg Nogueira.

The Secretary and Treasurer reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a verbal Director's report: she and Laura have been busy beefing up programs trying to have one program from each category every month, i.e., educational, craft, etc.; there were two emergencies regarding fuel assistance which required dropping everything else to handle; the municipal training in Littleton went very well, it was fascinating; according to the 2019 census Mendon's population is 6342 of which 1400 are seniors representing 22% of the total population.

Diana Carter and Cheryl, who was there answering phones, gave a brief Friends report: they finally have a date for the Narragansett trip, it is July 24; plans are underway for the Book Fair on April 5, 6 & 7; Kevin informed window blinds will be installed by the next Friends' meeting.

Old Business

Food Pantry—monthly distribution was held March 11 instead of March 4 due to the snowstorm; the new card system went smoothly.

Architect & Engineering Study—the contract went back and forth between Town Council and the architect; they hope to have it finalized by the March 18 BOS meeting.

FY20 Budget—Amy and Kevin met with FinCom. We will likely not get the increase in Laura's hours due to numerous budget increase requests. It is rumored the schools will be asking for an override either this year or next. Kevin would like to meet with Jay Byer, school finance director, to make him aware of what our plans are regarding the new addition. Everyone thought this to be a good idea.

Mission Statement—bypassed again until all members present.

Conflict of Interest Training—due April 5; Amy would like a copy of our test completion printout for her files.

Substitute Van Driver—Mark Rousseau is up for approval by the BOS at their March 18 meeting; the other candidate has had to decline.

Volunteer Appreciation—May 1, 2019 with “Island Vacation” theme; Amy and Laura are working on the menu; some suggestions: chicken on skewers, rice, tortellini salad, sautéed veggies, fresh fruit, pineapple dessert; in keeping with the theme, we chose the appreciation pin with the starfish stating “one person can make a difference”.

Valentine’s Day Party—so much fun; ziti, meatballs and salad for lunch; Earl played love songs for an hour or so; local cable tv taped it.

New Business

MCOA—small and rural senior center conference in Sturbridge April 24; Amy needs to know by next week if any council members wish to attend.

April COA Meeting—will not have to be rescheduled; will be second Wednesday, April 10.

Open Forum

Ann made a motion to give Amy a discretionary fund up to \$300 per calendar year from the gift account to reward with small gifts the volunteers who go above and beyond. Earl seconded. All approved.

Earl was instrumental in getting our “new” piano from Piano Movers in Marlboro who were giving away 50 pianos in conjunction with their 50th anniversary, all free of charge including delivery.

On Sunday, March 31 at 2pm, senior citizens are invited to attend “Shrek the Musical” at Nipmuc High School free of charge. Van transportation will be available.

Ann showed a paper given out when picking up nomination papers which stated that soliciting signatures in municipal buildings that are open to the public is allowable. This is in direct opposition to what we had been previously told by the former town clerk.

Meeting adjourned 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary