

COA Meeting Notes

November 9, 2016

Kevin called meeting to order 1:05pm. Members present: Kevin Rudden, Earl Pearlman, Peg Nogueira, Mary Ann Hopkins, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson Kent. Absent: Carol Kotros.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a verbal director's report. She received an email regarding a grant for Assistive Listening Systems which can be purchased at 25% of list price. December 1 is deadline to apply for the grant. Memorial contributions in honor of Lou Merolli would be an appropriate use of these funds. Amy will speak with Mike Merolli about this. Peg made a motion to allow Amy to use money from the gift account for the COA's 25% match towards the grant. Earl seconded. All approved. Also, Amy is presently training tax abatement workers to input data into My Senior Center. She is currently receiving requests for holiday giving for families in need, to which she will respond. She needs another volunteer to pick up from Panera Bread. The Friends want to have a float in the September 2017 350th Anniversary Parade.

Kevin reported that The Friends received a \$1000 donation from Brothers of the Brush earmarked for fuel assistance.

Old Business

Food Pantry Update—Scout Food Drive is this Saturday, November 12.

Senior Tax Abatement—first quarter has used \$3920. Re: FY17 budget, we need guidance from the town administrator and BOS as to whether we limit number of participants or increase the budget. Presently, there are 21 participants, so not enough money for everyone to earn \$1000.

Veterans Appreciation Breakfast—went very smoothly—well attended—enjoyed by all.

Holiday Dinner—December 7, 2017. The Ferrucci's will sponsor again and this year offered to take care of ordering the food from Oliva's. COA will be responsible for beverages and dessert. Kevin suggested asking town department heads if they would like to be servers.

New Business

MCOA Conference Updates—Earl reported on a session he attended re: peer support for individuals with dependence and mental issues. He wonders if something like this could be adapted here. Amy said the Blackstone Valley Elder Mental Health Outreach Program addresses these types of issues.

FY17 Preliminary Budget—in addition to last year's budget line items, we will request \$10,000 for windows from the Capital budget and \$1000 for MCOA conference attendance from the regular budget.

Senior Center Parking—Tussy Kimbal still allows parking across the street when additional parking is needed.

Van Link to Milford Bus Service—our senior van will drop off and pick up at CVS on Rt 140 in Milford where riders will connect with Milford bus for round trips to Kohl Plaza, Stop & Shop Plaza, Target Plaza. We agreed to try it for a couple dates (TBD) in December to see if there is interest and if it works effectively.

Exterior/Interior Railings—Friends have agreed to pay for repairs to outside railing and to add another railing going to basement. Amy has Kenny Gay coming to assess the job.

Tree Planting Request—Amy received an email from parents of a scout with project to plant apple trees on senior grounds to provide apples for food pantry. We all felt there is no room on the property for this. Also, upkeep and droppings is a deterrent. Kevin suggested directing them to the Library or Parks department.

Next meeting December 14, 2017. Meeting adjourned 3pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis

Secretary