

COA Meeting Notes

October 15, 2014

Kevin called the meeting to order at 10:35 am. Members present: Kevin Rudden, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros and Ann Vandersluis. Absent: Jim Negri, Mary Ann Hopkins. Bob Carlson arrived at 11:05 am. Also present: Director Amy Wilson-Kent, Dick Skinner, Nancy Jenkins and Bob Gebelein.

The secretary, treasurer and director reports were approved unanimously. During review of the director's report, Kevin suggested that prior to insurance presentations, Amy encourage seniors to speak with the Shine counselor before making any decisions.

Friends Report—Gloucester trip was wonderful, Oktoberfest set to go this weekend. Kevin reminded us about the Dairy Queen fundraiser this evening from 5-8pm. We decided to request \$200-\$300 in Friends' budget for minor repairs that come up during the year.

Old Business

Food Pantry—Carol reported they are still working on converting to cloth bags. The November distribution date was bumped up to Monday, Nov 10 due to Scout food drive Nov 8. The gifts cards in lieu of turkeys and hams for the holidays drew no objections from clients. A truckload of food from Boston Food Bank will arrive on Nov 22. Jim Negri is on medical leave so presently no coverage for Wed eve food pick-up. Carol suggested those clients could come earlier than 6pm or provide a list of what they need so a box can be prepared. The board suggested asking food pantry volunteers to alternate handling this. Finally, Carol would like to give holiday gift bags to senior housing residents funded from the food pantry account. Amy suggested the outreach worker could deliver them to the 30 seniors. Nancy Jenkins suggested baked goods would be popular. Amy will check with Girl Scouts who are always looking for community projects.

Senior of Year Event—went very well. Food was great, outstanding attendance. Earl suggested having this event video taped for local cable TV for those unable to attend.

Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast—committee will meet on Nov 5 to make sure everyone knows what they will be doing. Amy and Kevin will shop for the food. Mendon Minstrels have confirmed they will perform patriotic songs.

Holiday Dinner—Dec 10—Amy will follow-up with Karen Wheet as she hasn't heard from her yet. Ann reported that Dick and Betty Ferrucci are planning to sponsor the dinner and if Karen is unable to do it and we decide to go with Oliva's to let Dick know in advance.

Senior Center Survey—Kevin decided to pass over this item due to time constraints.

New Business

MCOA Conference—Kevin reported that he was very surprised by two things. One that many towns more affluent than Mendon do not have transportation and two that our director is grossly underpaid compared to towns of similar size. Both he and Amy will prepare reports on the workshops each attended.

FY16 Budget—Amy is meeting with the town administrator in 2 weeks to discuss the budget. The COA will repeat the request to increase the director's hours to 40. We will also request the outreach worker's hours increase from 6 hours to 10 additional hours weekly and will request an evaluation of the director's salary. Regarding Capital Planning, we will remind them to keep on their radar that \$10,000 to \$20,000 will be needed in the next few years for an architectural study for senior center expansion.

Open Forum

The emergency generator is supposed to be tested once a week but no one has been monitoring this. Amy will speak with Mark Bucchino about this. Dick Skinner brought up that we need more storage in the garage. Shelving could get the emergency Red Cross supplies off the floor. Amy will also speak with Mark B. about this to get his take on it.

Meeting adjourned 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis, Secretary

Cc: Jim Negri