

COA Minutes September 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at: 13:07

In Attendance: Hughes Pack (unanticipated guest), Deb Lanou (prospective member), Frank, Colleen, Carol, Howard, Jinx, Betty, Jim, Linda
Absent: Judie Tate

Our two guests introduced themselves and told why they were attending.

Minutes from August meeting: Frank moved that we approve the minutes, Jim seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Tony reports that there was not been much activity in August. The gift fund, breakfast fund, and lunch fund all saw some activity but the totals are close to the same amount as last month. The account shows two grants, the Fred Wells Grant and the Free Exercise Grant, that were not included earlier. Tony also reports that there are some items that still need to be worked out with the town accountant, as the town's figures indicate that we have overspent our Exercise Grant, but Tony suspects the town's numbers need some readjustment.

Linda clarified some of the information about the grant money. We received \$2700 and have spent \$1200 on reupholstering the chairs and approximately another \$1200 to support the monthly lunches. There is \$345 left that is being applied to fixing up the couch and the chair, getting all natural pillows, and for buying table cloths. Linda pointed out that the intent of the grant was to help recover from COVID, so all expenses must somehow be related to this. Frank moved to accept the report. Carol seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

Director's Report

Frank requested that Colleen provide updates on the overhaul and the purchase of a new stove.

Overhaul: There is much to be happy about with the Senior Center's new look. The new paint has cheered the place up, the recessed lighting has been installed, the TV and sound system are all in place.

Stove: Colleen received a quote from BMG Restaurant Equipment and Supplies. She requested that the quote include every possible expense associated with its purchase and installation. Colleen provided the specs and costs. Everything is in place to present to town. We currently have \$4338.51 towards the cost. Colleen told us the total new cost for the stove will be approximately \$7800, so we need to find an additional \$3500. Colleen met with Andrea about the quote. She is going to write up an article and present it in November. Andrea does not want to ask other agencies; it is a town matter. Auctioneer will pick up the old stove and put it on an online auction.

Hughes had a question about why we are sticking with a gas range when electric may be more efficient energy-wise. He pointed out that there may be a mandate from the state that all new installations not use fossil fuels. Linda responded that we need a professional grade range. If we get electric she would have to get all new pots and pans because of the glass top on electric ranges. She also feels she has more control when using a gas range. Others provided various observations. Tony mentioned that there are kits available that can make the range top appropriate for the heavier pots and pans. He is a proponent of an induction range with convection oven. Frank mentioned that we have talked about this for months and that we will have to make a decision. Hughes asked how often the range is used in typical times.

Howard and Jinx spoke about ways to save energy, such as shutting the gas off when the stover is not in use for a period of time. Safety issues brought up, too. Jinx did some research on various options, their costs and their efficiency. She distributed a packet that had showed prices and specs of four different options.

Linda had questions about oven sizes and whether or not the baking pans she uses will fit in the convection ovens. She also is concerned about having enough burners. We discussed fire safety and what would happen in the event of a power outage. Jim asked if the town hall has a back-up generator. Tony brought up the point that this would have to use a huge amount of diesel to be able to run all it would need to run.

Jim mentioned that the new gas stove would be more efficient than the old one.

Hughes made a request that we look into the most efficient option that meets Linda's needs.

Frank brought up budgetary concerns. Tony brought up the idea that if the product/idea is a good one, the money will come. We also discussed how often the range is used and for what purposes.

Frank moved that we table the discussion until next month and that we make a decision then. Betty seconded. Passed unanimously.

Director's Report

We are hoping to open before the end of fo October. Colleen would like to have an event with music for the opening, maybe some games.

The renovations are coming along beautifully. These include the new TV, coffee bar, paintings from Jean, photos from Carol, and a partition for privacy for foot clinic. The shelf holding the sign-in monitor needs to be moved so that folks will not bump into it. Colleen is looking into a handicap button for opening the door. Happy Feet doing well, next walk Burton Hill trail. We would like pictures of local people walking, wondering if any sort of signed permission form is needed to use pictures. Options were discussed.

On September 7 Colleen and Lifepath presented the AARP Age Friendly proposal to the select board and was approved. Nour is trained as an Alzheimer's presenter and will host a dementia friendly program from Alzheimer's Association.

Newsletter:

Jinx reports that we have had no input from the community, a sentiment that Betty echoed. Colleen wondered if Barb and Sam Richardson might want to write something about the cabin that they are selling to Mt Grace Conservation. Betty will collaborate with Karen Boudreau to write something about the MCOA walk program and their walks to surrounding towns.

Neighbors at Home:

Tony reports that N@H and Colleen are working on a collaboration to support a local senior couple. We are also looking into life beyond COVID.

Deb Lanou still wants to join, has not been scared away. After singing Deb's praises, Betty moved that we accept Deb, Jim seconded. She was accepted unanimously.

Jinx had the idea of renaming the coffee hour to coffee and conversation. Howard had some questions and comments about the walks, how to increase participation.

Betty moved that we adjourn. Jinx seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM

Respectfully submitted
Jim and Betty Whitcomb