

COA Minutes
December 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 13:00

Attendance: Carol, Howard, Jinx, Deb, Tony, Colleen, Linda, Frank, Jim, Betty
Absent: Judie

Minutes submitted for approval. There were questions about the best way to address changes to be made to minutes. Typos are OK to send via email. More substantial changes should be discussed at the meeting. Jinx has questions about Roberts Rules as pertains to motions. She feels that motions should contain only one item at a time. Frank read his original motion and it seems to be in compliance. Howard feels that adherence to Roberts' Rules should be all or nothing so as to avoid confusion.

Betty asked which version of the minutes should be adopted. Frank moved that we accept them first version. Carol seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report:

Tony submitted reports for both October and November. November's report is based upon figures from the Town as of December 1. There are still some discrepancies, but all values that appear negative (Exercise fund, Wells Grant, and Formula Grant) are actually positives. The discrepancies are the result of the town's not having processed all recent transaction. Tony asked how the exercises classes were doing financially. Colleen explained that when yoga was in person there was a bucket for donations, but with Zoom classes, no donations are coming in. This does not pose a problem for Healthy Bones and Balance, but it may cause a shortfall as far as yoga classes are concerned. Libby gives us a sizable discount, but even so, the exercise grant money is going fast.

Deb moved to accept treasurer's report. Carol seconded. Treasurer's report accepted.

Chair's Report:

Discussion about sand buckets. Colleen asked about how to get the word out. It will be included in newsletter

The Friends of the Senior Center asked if Jinx will stay on as liaison. She agreed to do so.

The Friends are planning a concert in conjunction with the 350 celebration. They have two options, one for a smaller concert (\$300 - \$400), one for a larger one (\$1500). The golf course will be available. They want to know if we can help sponsor this. Frank moved that we donate up to \$500 to this end. The motion passed.

Jinx commented on how nice the TV and sound system is and expressed gratitude to the Friends for this.

We talked about the January meeting and whether or not it should be live or Zoom, or hybrid. Carol offered a helpful suggestion for a hybrid meeting when there are two or more in the same room. Only one computer should have sound on so that there would not be interference. Betty suggested that we just go ahead and plan on a Zoom meeting, given that it is January and, on top of COVID, there may be travel concerns. It was decided to hold the meeting via Zoom.

We acknowledged Carol's last meeting as a member of the COA with a card and a gift card from Michaels (which has not yet arrived). Carol talked about her future plans and her acceptance into a competitive program offered through the Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association. She will be working towards earning a master gardener certification.

Carol's retiring from the board leaves a vacancy for vice chair. Frank asked for a volunteer. Deb is interested, but she feels that she needed more time under her belt. The bylaws say the same—6 months before someone can become an officer. Deb will become vice chair after that time. In the meantime we will conduct business without a vice chair.

Director's Report:

Colleen opened up with thanks for Carol.

Coffee hours are going well. The idea of a movie matinee did not go over well, so Colleen is going to offer an additional coffee hour in its place. Happy Feet is doing well and we are planning to walk throughout the winter. Howard has volunteered to pack down any trails with his snowshoes if necessary.

The bridge group is growing. Members are looking forward to a robust bridge group in town. Deb attended one and enjoyed it, learned a lot.

There will be coffee hours with speakers on the Thursday of each month. January's coffee hour will include a meet and greet with new Chief of Police. In February we will host a representative from the DA's to talk about scams. The knitting group is doing well. We are knitting during drop-in coffee hours on Mondays plus two Thursdays a month.

All iPads are back here, under lock and key. Lifepath says that if we are not using them, they should be returned. Colleen explained that the iPads are not being utilized that much, mostly because potential users tend not to have internet. Colleen floated the idea of a sort of Internet cafe on the last Thursday each month, with Linda offering tech support to those who need it.. Deb offered comments in support of this. Carol spoke more about how useful an asset this would be and that it could be used to help people learn more about how to access Wifi hotspots and use their iPads or tablets more effectively.

Tony proposed allowing people to check out iPads. Carol mentioned that people can borrow the library Wifi hotspot. Between the iPad and the Wifi, people who do not have Wifi can have access. Frank had a question about personal data left on iPads. Carol explained that all iPads are cleared of any personal info.

Town hall has a guest account for Wifi and recently got a booster for stronger signals on all three levels.

Technology: Carol submitted all the hours she worked on the technology to Colleen who can use this for her report to LifePath.

Tony will be the COA member highlighted for January's newsletter. Jim will be in February's.

Jinx had a question about Dementia Friendly Northfield. Colleen is in touch with Nour about this. There will be a survey to see what our needs are. Implementation will follow. In all, it is about a five-year process.

Legislation: There will be mask mandates for all public transportation.

Newsletter: Jinx is keeping up with energy tips.

Jinx proposed having discussion groups based on TED talks. Tony suggested using an app like What's App to help organize discussion groups. People seemed really to like this idea. Jinx hopes to start this up in January. This will be a great replacement for the Senior Learning Network, which has become ridiculously expensive.

Frank asked about tax preparation. That will happen in March.

Tony talked about Neighbors at Home's efforts to get more people involved in three different areas (technology realigning, social outreach, policies).

Carol is leaving a packet of information about the CPC with Colleen who will share it with Carol's successor as our liaison with CPC.

Colleen has been talking with a new person in town who is interested in joining the board, Debbie Wiesman.

Jinx had a question about the timeliness of being approved by the Select Board. Deb mentioned that she wishes the process was more thoroughly explained to prospective new members.

We discussed about changes to the bylaws. Frank will send them to everyone, for discussion at a later date. We discussed the membership process. There was a question as to who does CORI checks.

Deb moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 14:20

Respectfully submitted,
Betty and Jim