

COA Minutes
February 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 13:06

Attendance: Howard, Jinx, Deb, Tony, Colleen, Frank, Jim, Betty, Judie, Debby

Minutes submitted for approval. Debby mentioned that she did not receive them. Betty had forgotten to include her in the group email. Frank moved that we accept the minutes as written. Jim seconded. The minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

Tony mentioned that some previous discrepancies between the Town's books and the COA's books had been discovered by Colleen. Tony will incorporate the corrections into the next report. He found a revenue amount of \$7 that had been placed in the wrong category. That correction was made and included in the most recent version of the report he sent out. Tony also reported that he does not yet have the starting balances for Title III, Fred Wells Grant, and the Formula Grant. Jinx had a question about the \$400 "Other Charges". Tony will look into what sorts of charges go into that line item.

Judie moved that we accept the treasurer's report. Betty seconded. The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

Chair's Report:

Frank opened by suggesting that we vote on the Vision, Mission, and Value Statements. Debby did not receive these either, so Frank read them aloud. Jinx asked if we had agreed to use the term "bylaws" throughout. This is yet to be resolved.

Frank moved that we accept the revisions. Tony suggested that we should include the word "respect" in the Value Statement. It was agreed that we should and that Betty would send out the new wording agreed upon in the meeting. Frank moved that we accept the revisions. Betty seconded. The revisions were accepted unanimously.

We then discussed proposed revisions to Article II. There was some discussion about the phrase "general population", what it means and whether or not it should be included. There was some discussion about other phrases as well. Betty will type up what we agreed upon for distribution before the next meeting. We will vote on proposed changes to Article II next meeting.

With COVID cases dropping, we agreed to meet in person next month. Articles III and IV will be discussed then.

Deb Lanou has agreed to be our new liaison with the CPC.

Director's Report:

Colleen began by discussing Lifepath's discussion/workshops. The recent one discussed the need to establish boundaries, to be friendly, but not friends, as volunteers. There was some discussion about mandated reporting and speculation as to whether Neighbors at Home volunteers should be mandated reporters. It was agreed that they are not, but that they should notify someone if they see suspected abuse. Tony described all the ways the Neighbors at Home log all service calls to help assure that no problems arise. All volunteers are urged not to try to intervene should they encounter a problem. There was also discussion of a use of a lock box for allowing police easier entry into homes of seniors in case of an emergency. Also discussed was the need to keep health care needs in a very visible place.

Lifepath assured Colleen that they will split the cost of mailing surveys. Colleen will be writing a cover letter for these. ADMS will handle the mailing, at a cost of \$350. We do not need to mail out over 1,000 surveys as we originally thought, only between 100 and 150. We need to make sure that we canvas a cross-section of the 50+ year old population. Colleen hopes to get the surveys in the mail next week. She and Linda will pick names and then cross-reference with "My Senior Center" to see if we have email addresses for the people selected. Those whose email address we have will not receive hard copies of the survey, as they already will have received the email blast about the survey.

Betty will write up her bio for the March newsletter.

The Walk Massachusetts challenge will happen again this year. As they are allowing people of all ages to participate, Colleen hopes we can partner with the elementary school. Registration for the challenge begins April 1. We discussed how successful last's year participation was.

There will be a speaker from the DA's office at Thursday's coffee hour. He will discuss scams that specifically target seniors.

Ted Talks are going well. Linda will work on a new set up so that all who attend will be on the screen and can join the discussion. When the two occur on the same Thursday, we will combine knitting with the Ted Talks.

Student volunteers will be available to help out at the next Internet Cafe'.

All department heads working for the town must undergo a performance review. There are options for how we can submit our comments. It was decided that we

would let Frank write up the review and submit it to Andrea. COA members may submit comments to Frank. Judie made a motion to this effect; Deb seconded. The motion passed.

Frank made a motion that we authorize up to \$300 to assist with mailing the surveys if needed. Betty seconded. The motion passed.

Other reports:

Friends: Jinx provided a brief summary of their recent meeting. February is their month for planning events. They have \$1545 in their account and are looking for ways to spend it. Among the ideas they had were hosting a 60's party, providing a bus to the shore, and a vintage car show. They also want to brainstorm ideas for participating in Northfield's 350th celebration.

Neighbors at Home: Tony described a program in Cheshire County, NH that provides elders with rides to places where the van service would not take them. He mentioned that providing rides is the biggest service provided by Neighbors at Home. He wondered if Lifepath could offer a program similar to the one in NH. Colleen mentioned that we have seniors who need rides to Cheshire Medical Center, but cannot get them through the van service because of having to cross state lines.

Legislation: Nothing to report.

Newsletter: Betty will write up the next bio. Jinx will write up helpful hint.

Betty moved to adjourn. Jim seconded. The motion passed.
The meeting was adjourned at 14:45

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Whitcomb

Betty moved that we adjourn. Judie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 14:52

Respectfully submitted,
Betty and Jim