

COA Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2021

Attendees: Marge Ackerman, Betsey Boyd, Jane Donnelly, Leslye Fligor, Susan Ruskin Friend, Linda Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Jean MacQuiddy, Mignonne Murray, Tom Nicholson, Carol Ott, Vida Goldstein (associate member), Teresa Young (associate member).

Absent: Alice Benson (associate member), Bob Froh, Melissa Galton (associate member) Prather Palmer, Gerri Scoll.

Due to the suspension of in-person public meetings during the Covid-19 Emergency, this meeting was held via zoom and recorded.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

No resident concerns or comments were expressed.

The April 15th board meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: (Mignonne)

The new MAPC grant money that had previously caused confusion between accounts has been corrected. COA General Funds; 80% of the budget has been spent, we are in good shape and looking very strong.

The State Formula Grant figures are not out yet for next year, and the new census numbers aren't out yet.

We haven't seen the Town's Annual Census for 2020 but we're predicting Weston's older adults will fall around 28 percent.

We will have a new budget in July following approval at town meeting.

Treasurer's report was approved

Notice of Board Slate: (Marge)

Our By Laws require we give public notification of our slate of COA Board officers for next year.

Chair: Susan Ruskin Friend

Vice Chair: Linda Johnson

Treasurer: Prather Palmer

Secretary: Marge Ackerman

Director's Report: (Mignonne)

The Lands Sake Farm Stand Program will take place again this year. People over 60 who have been vetted by the social worker will be given vouchers to purchase fresh produce at the Lands Sake farm stand.

The new social worker has not been hired yet.

The staff is back in the office full time now. Mignonne has been shifting folks around to accommodate COVID space requirements. A new desk area has been built in the old seating area on the left side of the entrance to the COA.

Large planters are being installed in the front of the building to act as bollards to block any cars from accidentally smashing into the building.

The doors will open to the public at the COA on June 1st.

The COA board meetings may continue to take place via Zoom; however we are still waiting for the Weston Health Department to make the final ruling as to when meetings will resume in person.

Chair Reports

FCOA: (Betsey)

No updates currently. The next meeting of the FCOA will take place on June 25th.

Housing: (Jane)

Sarah Rhatigan will be joining the Housing meeting at its next meeting.

Susan Wagner is writing an article for the Town Crier encouraging Weston residents to donate some of their land for Weston housing.

Community Connections: (Vida)

The Community Connections Speakers Program for Health Issues is going nicely.

Dr. Kamdar Mihir, Palliative Care and Pain Management at MGH, gave a terrific talk last week.

Two upcoming speakers:

Dr. Joanne Borg-Stein, a pain specialist and rehab doctor.

Dr. Andrew Budson, a neurologist, will give a talk on memory.

Susan Wagner is working on the Speakers Bureau.

Social Justice Committee: (Jane)

Next meeting will take place on June 8th at 2:00pm. At their first meeting, they'll focus on the book White Fragility and show a few videos to educate the group.

Transportation: (Jean)

Jean attended an MWRTA meeting at the end of April. Their current focus is on Micro-transit, in their opinion, the way of the future.

Springwell: (Jean)

Springwell continues to do well. They had a presentation on Options Counseling, a free service for older adults who need services, such as help with housing, etc.

Springwell has received funding and is providing a special ride program called Alternative Transportation. They are offering free transportation to people over 62 years old who live in the eight towns that Springwell covers. This program will continue until they run out of funding.

Needs Assessment: (Tom)

Tom presented the Awareness Mission Statement and outlined the committee's strategy to focus on creating the case for the need for space change. It is important to clearly outline why we need more space, where will it be, when will it happen and how we would pay for it.

Tom thanked Teresa for the introduction to folks at Regis to discuss possible collaboration on various projects in the future.

Awareness: (Linda/Carol)

Carol met with Governance Committee, and they have agreed that Awareness/Events Planning will become an ad hoc volunteer project, not a working group requiring minutes.

On June 15th at 11:00am a Welcome Back Coffee is being planned, certain COVID requirements will still be in place. Weather permitting, the outside courtyard will be used. They are hoping to invite and introduce new residents to the COA. The Board was encouraged to extend personal invitations.

Linda has been in touch with Leon for an update on the campus signage project. The design consultants will give their final presentation before the Planning and Select Boards in a few weeks.

Welcome and Hospitality (Leslye):

A discussion of the distinction between Welcome, Hospitality and Awareness was tabled to be continued after the board meeting.

Governance: (Susan)

A motion was made to revise the definition of Associate Members and to increase the maximum number of Associate Members to five. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved. The revised document will be added to Googledoc.

The Awareness Group will no longer be a working group and will now be comprised of ad hoc volunteers for specific projects

The two candidates for the COA board will be interviewed by the Select Board on Tuesday, May 25th at 7:00 pm.

Jane announced that there would be a Race Amity Day program on Sunday, June 13th on the Natick Common from 7-8 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Next meeting is June 17 at 8:30 am.