

LANCASTER COA MINUTES

MARCH 22, 2017

Attendees: Jay Moody (Chair), Alexandra Turner (Director), Frank McGrory, Melissa Pelletier (NM), Marilyn Largey (NM), Judie MacLean, Michele Macdonald, David James (Friends), Michelle Jones, Jo-Agnes Santangelo, Beverly Fiske (NM), Sheila Casey (NM).

Meeting called: 9:05

Friends Update: This year to date we're up \$2,419.00. We've received over \$3,000.00 in monetary donations this year so far. We're up about \$300.00 on the Pancake Breakfast.

Director's Update: David told us more about the Clinton Calendar Raffle. Tickets are sold for five months. The raffle is held for one month. Each ticket is \$5.00 and has 31 chances to win. In order to break even 180 tickets had to be sold. They did well, making \$4,100.00 this year. David spoke about smile.amazon.com, where if you enroll, a small percentage of your purchase price goes to a charity of your choice.

Alix spoke about sending birthday cards to residents turning 65 including a reminder to sign up for Medicare.

We have a big committee working on Spring Fling which will be held Friday April 7, 2017. Copies of the flyer advertising for it are here on the table. On Thursday April 6, 2017 we'll be doing the cooking, prep and physical setup for the Spring Fling. Dave got the liquor license Monday night. We could really use the help with cleaning up after the event.

Budget: The town tells us to anticipate cuts this year. There's less money in the budget due to Minuteman Vocational Tech, the town water pipes and the Prescott Building. There's some concern as to whether the town would continue to fund Marilyn's position and the possibility of her salary coming out of the Revolving Fund.

Marilyn has met with the Administration of Bigelow Gardens about holding a safety meeting for residents which would address issues such as when to call 911, the RUOK program and Red Alert (which informs residents of safety issues occurring in the neighborhood). There is a need for more than one person to shovel the entrances to resident apartment buildings of Bigelow Gardens in a snowstorm. Alix e-mailed the town police chief and Wanda about this issue and is patiently awaiting their input. Michelle suggested asking for volunteers to shovel in our newsletter. Alix spoke more about the Revolving Fund and that it is used to pay for yoga, Tai Chi, and events like Family Fun Day, and Spring Fling.

The Town wants to buy a new ladder truck for the Fire Department which would cost about \$1,000,000.00. Is this really a necessary purchase and the best use of town dollars? With more than a quarter of Lancaster's population age 60 and over, only 0.026 % of the town's budget is for Council on Aging! We need COA members to be more active in the finance process!

Alix spoke about the MBTA assessment of \$30,000.00. She suggested using it for MART, so that it benefits our residents. We need to come up with a new program that would support the position. Alix mentioned the Massachusetts Department Grant to rehab the kitchen.

Approval of Minutes from Last Month: February Minutes accepted and approved.

Other Agenda Items: David and Jay are on the committee to renovate the Memorial School. Possible uses were discussed: Adult day care or child care? A business outside of the town would have to renovate it and the town would lease it to them.

Jay voiced the need to acquire a list of seniors in town.

David will investigate mailing costs for non-profits.

Marilyn reported that the Lancaster COA budget amount was in between that of Sterling and Bolton.

Melissa wants photos from COA members in order to make the photo ID badges.

Jay has some prices from the electrician for heat in the bathroom. The outside air grilles need to be covered.

Work on the Prescott Building should be completed by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Casey