

LANCASTER COA MINUTES

February 15, 2017

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

Director's Update: Alix reports that the Marlborough trip (Consignment Crawl) was very successful. The new yoga program, Chair Yoga for Arthritis, is more expensive so we'll tap into the \$5,000.00 set aside for fitness. The instructor, Juliana, is excellent. She modified the moves for all levels of fitness. There is some question as to whether we'll continue with the Ballroom Dancing program. Pickleball is up to eleven sessions a week here. Alix asked if we want to hold a Health Fair this year. The vendors want it again but it does take a lot of effort and advertising costs a lot. Michelle said she thought it was well attended and well organized. A "Taste of..." event was a possibility but after discussion, we decided that a Health Fair would be a lot less work if we took the food element out. A Health Food Fair could be a separate event. It was decided to hold the Health Fair without food. We'd invite the health food store, Roots, to set up a booth. If any of the vendors wanted to give food away, that would be fine. Tentative dates would be either Wednesday October 11th or Friday October 13th 2017. The pros and cons of each date were discussed. We'll consider the hours later.

Friends Update: Dave reported that we have \$11,405 in the checking with \$5,000.00 set aside for Senior Fitness. We raised \$200.00 from the Super Bowl raffle. The State was paid. We've raised over \$3,000.00 from the Friends Appeal handout that was mailed with the census. We discussed the idea of a monthly calendar raffle like the one Clinton holds. They made \$5,000.00 profit! Dave reported having paid the raffle license fee to the town. Deb Ducharme is putting a raffle basket for the Winter Fest or Spring Fling. Dave said that Post Office mailing costs for EDDM (Every door direct mailing) flyer was \$515.00. In regards to a one day liquor license, Dave said that single day insurance and general liability would have to be purchased first.

Community Service Liaison: Marilyn reports that she continues to meet 2-3 people seeking help per week. She attended SNAP training in Plymouth which was excellent and gave her a good base with which to help people apply. She said many people who qualify have not applied and she'll be working with them to sign up. She's started to meet with Town officials. She also met with the Town Fire Chief and they talked about CPR training. He'll get a new system which will be able to tell how many EMS calls are for seniors. At the BOS (Board of Selectmen) meeting, she was introduced to the selectmen. She joined the Block Grant Committee Challenge. Its aim is in coming up with a new social service grant project for 2017-2018. The goal is structural renovations to our building. We're eligible for about \$800,000. Various possible uses for the Memorial School Building were mentioned. Marilyn wanted us to let others know about help available for home improvements such as plumbing and roofing costs for income qualified seniors so that they can stay in their homes. We agreed it would be better to use the term "income qualified" rather than "low income". Ray asked Marilyn to inquire to the Fire Chief about getting a generator for our building.

Town employees are being trained to respond to people with dementia through Central MA Dementia Friendly Learning Training.

Grants – Gardening: Alix said that for a while she was worried about fulfilling the requirements for the Harvard Community Health Grant but now the after-school program is a huge success. We have to make sure that the gardeners who signed up for a plot fulfill the contract by actively participating in the program and if not, we need to “weed” out no-shows.

Intergenerational: Girl Scout, Sarah MacGregor will be fixing the back building entrance to the elevator and renovating the flower bed. SLC TV fell through. They don’t have enough time to tape the cooking show. Melissa suggested making a video and posting it on Facebook.

Buildings and Grounds: Jay reported that the Energy Commission is getting National Grid to install the lights. Price is reasonable. Each Town building makes a “wish list” of energy improvements needed in case a grant is available. Jay thinks the Town has available money which could be set aside as a fund for energy.

Drivers and Snow Policy: Alix reported that the Town sold the Woods Ambulance building. We were supposed to get a metal shelter for our van. The snow we had was a problem! Who is responsible for cleaning snow off the van? The Driver ended up doing it but MART does not reimburse for this.

Jay reminded us of the need to present to the Finance Committee, the numbers of people we serve to insure adequate funds are allocated for Lancaster seniors.

Photo IDs: Alix showed us the staff photo IDs. COA members will also be getting photo IDs. She reported that finalists for town administrator are being screened.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Casey