

# LANCASTER COA MINUTES

**June 21, 2017**

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

**Meeting called to order at 9:10 AM.**

**Minutes from last month approved.**

**Chairman's Update:** Jay spoke about the letter he received from the Board of Selectmen concerning the 2018 budget. Copies of the letter are handed out to members. The letter wasn't clear as to whether there would be cuts to the revolving account. Walter will be meeting with Orlando at noontime today. He does not think that any money will be cut.

**Defibrillator Training and CPR Training:** Marilyn reported that she had a meeting with Chris Wyatt of the Fire department. He'd like to offer the training once a quarter. Training would be free and open to all town employees as well as board and commission members. To become certified, the cost of the card is \$7.00. Marilyn has done a preliminary draft for advertising. Kudos to Marilyn for moving this along! Alix spoke about the need for NARCAN as another way of saving lives by preventing opiate overdose deaths.

**Meals on Wheels:** Jay has a magnetic 'Meals on Wheels' sign for his car. Good for public awareness and safety. Home delivery plan is down to 5 or 6 deliveries to seniors in the Town of Lancaster. Nicole spoke about eligibility for Meals on Wheels which is being over 60 years of age and homebound. MOC (Montachusett Opportunity Council) does not look at income. MOC wants to increase numbers. Jay suggested getting the word out through churches. Alix said that there was talk of establishing an interfaith council to address matters like this.

**Friends Update:** David reports that we are \$1,657.86 on the plus side this year with an account total of \$11,863.20. We bought a pop-up gazebo at Aubuchon's. David is still looking into liability insurance for Friends but insurers say we don't qualify. Friends needs more volunteers. David wrote a blurb in the newsletter to address this. He will schedule regular meetings with the board of Friends. Alix suggested he tell her in advance, so she can put it in the newsletter.

**Director's report:** Alix reports that as usual, we have an active schedule. Today is the trip to see the Tall Ships. There was a long waiting list for this. Jay says that it's crowded at Boston Harbor! Alix says that they've planned well. There'll be a bakery crawl tour, Faneuil Hall and a cruise planned for 5:00 PM. This trip brings a lot of new people to the Center and it is a money-maker as well. She suggested that we advertise first to Lancaster residents and initially out-of-towners be put on a waiting list. We need to formalize the advertising with a drop-dead date.

Alix called AUC (Atlantic Union College) about using their bus but they said, no, they're not using it. She will try SLA (South Lancaster Academy) which is independent of AUC. AUC also declined to share their

gym for pickleball or consider working together to develop recreation programs. The summer barbecue held last week went well. Alix said there were about thirty six people. The feedback she got back was positive, although she was concerned the music was too loud and that mic time needs to be shared more equitably. Alix asked us for suggestions. More help is needed especially for food preparations the day before and for clean up after the event. We served healthy food which ties in with the Harvard Pilgrim Health Grant as well.

### **Activities**

**Third Thursdays on the Terrace:** July 20, 2017, the next third Thursday will be Tapas on the Terrace. We want people to RSVP. That way we know how much food to prepare. Alix would like to use an online electronic payment system. She'd prefer EventBrite over UniGold which the town uses now. Alix requested that a subcommittee be formed to discuss pricing and menu. Several volunteered to be on this subcommittee and to meet possibly next week. Nicole suggested getting the word out about the Fall Ball, to be held September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017. It's not too early to start planning. Michelle said that she'd distribute flyers at upcoming River Terrace events.

**Fitness:** Pickleball is moving outside for the summertime. Yoga attendance is up and down. Julianna wants to move Chair Yoga from Wednesday to Tuesday. Jude wants to do a fitness challenge. Participants log their steps. Fliers to go out.

**Camp Craft:** Sad news! Due to low enrollment, Camp Craft is not happening here this summer. The Town recreation department wants to run their own camp. There's not enough notice for our Community Center to come up with more children's activities to fill the void.

**Health Fair:** Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Health Fair will be from Friday October 13, 2017 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We need to send out the vendor invitations. Michelle said as a gold sponsor, River Terrace would have a large table and serve up apple crisp. She said that Mike Bell, the Executive Director of River Terrace, will be leaving at the end of the month. We acknowledge our appreciation for his past support and all wish him well as he continues his career. Michelle assures us that she will continue to promote the COA agenda to her administrator.

**Gardening and Cooking:** Alix reports that Marilyn has been working hard with the gardening here. We got the \$10,000.00 Harvard Pilgrim Grant. We're working with Home Instead on the Healthy Cooking and Healthy Eating Blood Pressure Challenge prizes for best improvement. Big volunteer day with Gardening coming up. We need strong people to help with fencing and building more raised beds.

**Personnel:** We need more personnel here but it's not presently the time. We are not able to get any more.

**CSL Report:** It's official! Marilyn served 100 documented clients already. With follow-ups and revisits, she's been very busy. She has also completed SHINE training.

**Budget:** We're dealing with changes in the MART contract and it is not settled yet. Nicole asked Alix about the State budget. Alix said that it's in the hole. The Formula Grant will be okay but SNAP, MA Health and Oil Assistance could see cuts.

**Grants:** We got three grants generously supported by the Board of Selectmen: Two grants from World Farmers, AKA Flats Mentor were used to renovate appliances in the upstairs kitchen. They'll be doing a class on canning and preserving. From the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and World Farmers, \$150,000. They replaced the plumbing, fixed the dishwasher, and paid for plans. We still need fire suppression and a stove hood.

The Keep Moving Club received a grant for \$600.

**Energy Commission:** Jay reported that we're looking to get the Green Communities Grant. Walter said that budgets are tight, so grants are harder to get.

**New Business:** Alix spoke about doing a community-wide lunch. Could we call it, "Center Village Table"? We would serve a homemade on-site meal that's healthy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month. MOC would deliver MOW that day, though. Cable: Sterling Lancaster Cable Television (SLCT) is moving to Sterling. Alix thought we could use the vacated space for nurse visits or SHINE counseling. It offers a more private and accommodating location.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Casey