

Millbury Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2022

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Attendees: Stephen Walinsky, Chmn., Richard Townsend Co- chmn., Stuart Mulhane, Kevin Higginbottom, Sean Hendricks, Town Manager

The meeting convened at 7:35AM.

VOUCHERS:

There were no vouchers prepared for signature, but a discussion occurred regarding the batch reviewed the previous week. The chairman expressed concern that the COA Board was now being asked to approve expenses of a type not seen before, nor not within the parameters of the COA budget. One example was the invoice presented for payment to the Fox bus company, for what is appearing to be a Town sponsored trip. Another was payment in full to the Yoga and Tai Chi instructors. Students in those classes are expected to make a weekly payment, and the Formula Grant contributes the difference between the student contributions and the instructors fee.

Discussion continued about the involvement of the Friends in such activities, and at this point a deviation from the agenda occurred, with the active participation by the Town Manager as to his vision with respect to re-establishing a spirit of cooperation with the Friends rather than a competition. The COA staff needs to be aware of that vision and the Manager accepted that responsibility to direct them accordingly, in the absence of an Executive Director.

MINUTES:

The April meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented by e-mail. They were signed, and given to the Manager who was to present them to the Town Clerk,

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from the Friends was read.

Specific items communicated to the Chairman by the Friends were that the Friends would continue the tradition of providing the decorated urns alongside the building for memorial day and the manager will relay that message to staff so that there would be no duplication of effort or expense. Secondly the Friends will renew the Non-Profit Bulk Mailing permit and pay the renewal fee to the Postmaster Third, the Friends requested to be allowed to provide trips for seniors as in the past, as long as staff/ interim director are made aware of the event. The manager agreed that there should be a spirit of cooperation rather than competition and agreed that Friends could offer social functions for Seniors. Procedural issues as to sign ups, and payments by attendees are yet to be worked out.

It was recognized that regardless of the resolution of the Executive Director status, Judy O'Connor will remain a key part of the Friends organization, and as such will have continuing Senior Center involvement. The Manager also suggested that it might be valuable for a Board Member, or Members be on the New Director Screening Committee.

During further discussion, the Friends will be encouraged to resume fundraising activities to be able to support Senior Center activities as well as to safely and efficiently maintain the Transportation Program for the Town. The Senior Center staff will continue to take reservations for transporting those asking for rides, and will maintain the detailed logs recording such reservation requests.

It is expected that, for future COA Board meetings, a representative of the Friends will attend so that activity co-ordination and co-operation will be carried out efficiently. It was also envisioned that the rail car will revert back to entertainment and activity status, and that its office and transportation functions will be accomplished within the Senior Center building.

A second letter from Jack Marino, President of the Friends , was read. His request was that the Town forward monies that have continued to be collected in the Senior Center, but that are received for sales of Friends Property or otherwise collected that should be directed to the Friends. No re-imbursements have been processed by the Town apparently since August 2021. He also proposed that a bank envelope be used to collect money for the Friends, but was told that all money withing the building was to be given to the Town Manager on a daily basis.

No action was taken by the Board, as the Town Manager was made aware of this request.

The last correspondence was from the Town Clerk advising that posting requirements could be accomplished by e-mail to Jane Davolio and A, Leighton.

STANDING REPORTS

- A. Budget and Finance: The manager reported that the Formula Grant will now be written for a ten year period.
- B. Personnel:
- C. Nominating: No report
- D. Legislative: No report
- E. Senior Center Usage: The manager reported that the Senior Prom students of the High School were unable to use the Asa Waters Mansion for class photos because of a use conflict, and he suggested the garden of the Senior Center which was favorable to the students..
- F. Building Maintenance/ Equipment: Repairs were being made to the catchbasin drains at two places in the Senior Center parking area.

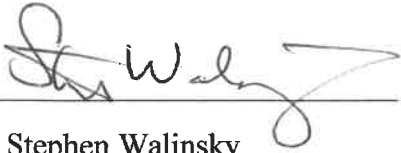
Directors Report: Since most issues were discussed above, there was no further report.

Old Business: No further old Business

There was no New Business.

Next Board Meeting reminder : June 15,2022

Adjournment occurred at 8:45 AM



Stephen Walinsky



Richard Townsend



Stuart Mulhane

Kevin Higginbottom

May 16th, 2022

Millbury COA Correspondence

April

In the month of April we had some special activities including a Fraud Prevention Play, A Millbury Senior Field Day, and the Memory Café with live Acoustic music. There was a cluster of Covid cases, around 20 individuals, here at the senior center, and we closed for one week for deep cleaning.

May

During this Month we hosted live acoustic music with Howie Newman. We did this in collaboration with the Millbury Public Library and there were 22 people who attended. A wonderful time was had by all. The memory café is next Tuesday and we have Mr. Magic performing at 2 P.M. We expect approximately 20 to 25 people at this event.

Cindy organized our first Fox bus Tour trip to Narragansett on June 28 and there are 56 seniors going.

June

June 16th- Robert Black – Elvis concert

June 28th – Memory Café – Fourth of July Bingo.