

## COA Board Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

9:00 AM

In Attendance: Bert Lannon, Helen Daly, Meredith St. Sauveur, Elizabeth Derwin, Joyce Boiardi, Bill Brown, Carol Maloof, Anne-Marie Gagnon, Andrew Lizardi, Brooks Corl, Kristi Christman, Lisa Kirby

- The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of **Steve Howie**. Steve was a revered member of the Millis community and his service to the town is note-worthy and deserving of thanks and admiration. Steve was most recently President of the Friends of the COA. We will miss his advocacy of the COA mission.
- **Kristi Christman** has taken on the role of President of the Friends of the COA – we are very thankful for her leadership and look forward to working with her.
- The **minutes of the February 8th** meeting were accepted with one change noting the deadline of the nomination date for the Lansing Millis award.
- The Center is **now open Monday – Thursday from 8:30 – 4:00, Friday 8:30 – 12:30**. We now have afternoon programs and keeping the center open Thursday afternoons makes sense. This is an additional 2 hours a week the Center is open.
- The town received the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the **state formula grant** (\$14 for each senior in Millis recorded during the 2020 Federal census). The total amount received for the year was \$31,668.
- **16 chairs with arms** were purchased and assembled by the Senior Center staff. The chairs are well received by our guests who need the arms to lift out of the chair. Thanks to the staff for the assembly work. **Card tables** are the next item to be purchased.
- **Name tags** for board members have been ordered for wearing in the Center. It identifies the person wearing the name tag as a board member and encourages visitors to ask questions or offer opinions.
- Anne-Marie shared the **report submitted to the Mass Executive Office of Elder Affairs** on our demographics and service numbers. Also, Anne-Marie is working on the **COA report for the annual town report**.
- There was a discussion about the **right name for the Center**. Should it be updated to be more inclusive? This will be discussed at a future meeting.

### Programs

- 50 people have registered for the **St. Patrick's Day lunch**. There will be musical entertainment.
- In April there will be a **climate change conversation** focusing on flooding and mitigation strategies.
- In April Janet Parnes will present the **story of Frances Perkins** (Secretary of Labor for FDR, and the first woman to serve in a Presidential cabinet). The Millis Cultural Council is sponsoring this event.
- Plans are in motion for the **May open house**. We are still working toward a history of Millis talk as well as refreshments.
- There is the possibility of an event using **Windy Knob Farm** and Bo and Bill Whittaker. These are early discussions.
- The COA is promoting a High School Senior Project of **historical trolly rides around Millis**. The primary goal of the COA is to promote the event to Seniors in town.

- **Sew and Stitch** group is up to 25 people and growing. The goal is to become financially self-sufficient through selling teddy bears. There are also discussions about making memory bears that could be sold.
- **Mahjong** began this week and will have a more formal release in May.
- The May 16th trip to **Castle Island** is sold-out and a waiting list is being formed.
- **Three trips for later in the year** have been planned:
  - Cape Cod Canal June 20th (cost \$132)
  - Parker's Maple Barn and Averill Winery (both in New Hampshire) on October 17<sup>th</sup> (cost \$122)
  - Blithewold Mansion and Lasalette Shrine December 5th (cost \$129)

### **Transportation**

- The Transportation sub-committee met with Kevin Kandola from the DPW to discuss **maintenance** of the vehicles. The DPW is the first contact for any maintenance issues or questions. If they can't handle the issue, they will refer us to the right provider. The DPW will also handle inspection of the bus since it's a commercial vehicle. The COA drivers will handle inspection of the van and car.
- We are going to put **stickers in the vehicles to display when the last oil change was** so the drivers can easily see when a new oil change is needed.
- We have settled on a **Hyundai Sonata SEL Hybrid** as a replacement for the Chevy Cruz. The Friends are funding \$21K of the purchase, and we received a State grant for \$12.5K. Also, we will be trading in the Chevy Cruz. We are targeting the end of March for the purchase. Big thank you to the Friends for the financial support.
- Question was raised about **more handicapped parking by the elevator**. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

### **Communications**

- We are still looking for **nominations for the Lansing Millis Legacy Award**. Deadline is April 5th.
- Beginning in June **printing of the newsletter** will be turned over to LPI. LPI will solicit advertisers for the newsletter and in exchange they will pay for the printing. We will still be able to use the non-profit postage stamp and will save about \$5,000 a year in printing costs.
- The next episode of **COA Happenings** will feature Anne-Mare and Lisa discussing Outreach. We expect to film this month.

Next Meeting April 11, 9:00 AM.