

**AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2016
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Room 101 Bangs Community Center**

Members Present: Daniel Clapp (Chair), John Magarian (Vice Chair), Susan Dierks (Co-Secretary), Timothy Atteridge (Co-Secretary), Jack Wollensak, Norma Hallock, Mary Hough, Etta Walsh, Doris Holden (Treasurer FOASC).

Members Absent: Richard Kofler.

Staff Present: Nancy Pagano (Director), Maura Plante (Assistant Director/Services), Helen MacMellon (Social Worker), Karen Erman (Administrative Assistant), Toheeb Bakare (Social Worker Intern).

Guests: Scott Merzbach (Reporter: Daily Hampshire Gazette), Diana Stein (League of Women Voters).

WELCOME: COA Chair Dan Clapp opened the meeting at 9:03 AM by asking if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes to the previous meeting (12-17-15). Seeing and hearing none, John Magarian moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Jack Wollensak. Unanimously accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Friends Treasurer Doris Holden presented the FRIENDS Treasurer's Report: Dated January 26, 2016.

FUNDS ON HAND

General Account		\$12,120.11
Program Account		\$ 2,832.38
Travel Account		\$ 4,755.71
Investment Account (Edward Jones)		\$78,649.72
TOTAL		\$98,358.02
Transferred General to Program Account	10/28/15	\$ 2,000.00
	12/21/15	\$ 2,000.00
	1/19/16	\$ 1,500.00
General Account Received from Travel	10/31/15	\$ 2,000.00
Paid Boisselle, Morton & Assoc. for preparation of 2014 Exempt Organization Tax Return		\$ 700.00
Paid Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Tax Return to Public Charities Division		\$ 35.00
Paid Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Report to Corporations Division		\$ 15.00
Received from Judie's Art Bar		\$ 1,000.00
Paid to Judie's Art Bar		\$ 550.00
FY 16 Donations to date:		\$13,725.00

Tim Atteridge moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Sue Dierks. The report was accepted unanimously.

FRIENDS UPDATE:

Tim Atteridge spoke on behalf of the vacationing **FOASC** President Rosemary Kofler.

- The Friends most recent fundraiser was held January 14th at Judie's Art Bar and raised \$450. The best part was that it was a lot of fun. Monet's Garden never looked so good!!
- There will be another fundraiser on March 1st—an Election Day Bake Sale for the Presidential Primary. It will be held in the entrance Lobby of Bangs from 8 AM- noon or 1 PM
- We were disappointed to learn that Nancy's grant request to the Amherst Club for \$7,500 to cover the Senior Health Services nurse outreach program was denied. They have insufficient funds this year.
- We received \$12.05 from AmazonSmile in November. That did not include Christmas sales. So keep on shopping.
- We are pleased with the FY16 Annual Solicitation donations of \$13,725 thus far.
- The Friends approved the purchase of several items at their January 26 meeting:
 - A desk for the new office area adjacent to the Social Workers office. The Social Workers will use that space for confidential consultations.
 - 50 copies of the 40th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet
 - A Credit Card account that will allow for a transponder for both the van and 20 passenger bus to be used for the Travel Club trips.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS STUDY

COA Chair Dan Clapp welcomed Diana Stein of the Amherst League of Women Voters who gave the COA an update on the ongoing study of Aging in Amherst. Ms. Stein started by announcing there will be a celebration of the LWV's 75th anniversary on Saturday, February 13th at Ginger Garden. She also announced the LWV brown bag lunch at the Bangs Community Center on Thursday, February 18th, at noon, when there will be a presentation by Nancy Pagano--all are invited.

The Aging in Amherst Study conducted by the LWV was compiled from information gathered from the Amherst Senior Center, PVTA, HVES, The Stavros Foundation, the S.A.L.T. Council, the Amherst Housing Authority, and the Fisher Hospice Home. With the information gathered, the LWV will develop a strategy on how best to advocate for seniors in Amherst. The League has to come to a consensus on how best to help seniors age in place.

Nancy asked if the study will address the need for additional housing for elders? **Diana Stein** said the Town, along with the AHA, are working on the subject of elderly housing through the Legislative process.

Nancy asked if the LWV interviewed the Public Safety Departments. Nancy suggested it would be enlightening to obtain AFD/APD statistics related to repeat non-emergency calls from elders. Maura stated that in meetings with HVES personnel, there is a growing trend all across the country of increased and often unnecessary Public Safety calls. As the older population grows, more public safety monies will be needed to help with increasing demand.

Ms. Stein concluded her remarks by saying there is a lack of visibility on the need for Elder Care. She said that the Amherst LWV is one of the few in the country that is focusing on increasing awareness of elder needs. She, she stated men are also a part of the Amherst League of Women voters--all are welcome to join. COA Chair Dan Clapp thanked Diana for her presentation.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **PARKING.** Jack Wollensak reported that as of 1-31-16 there have been 113 parking stickers issued with 6 exemptions. Comparing this year with last year, we are tracking very close to last year.
- **HVES Board of Directors.** COA member Mary Hough reported that HVES is researching the needs of elders, much the same as the LWV. According to Kathleen Nelson, our Amherst Lunch Site Director, there are some positive reports on new meat recipes. Working with commodity food can be challenging.
- **Senior Health Advisory Group:** COA member Norma Hallock reported. The group met at Johnny's Roadside Diner. Senior Health Services nurse Lisa White will be adding an outreach health clinic at Chestnut Court along with Nursing Students from UMASS School of Nursing. Norma Hallock said that Medicare will cover the cost of a doctor to talk to seniors on end of life issues.
- **Long Range Planning Committee:** COA member Jack Wollensak provided an in-depth report on the Committee's visit to the Westfield Senior Center with details and a power-point display. The question continues to be how can Amherst get the community behind a new Senior Center. Dan Clapp stated this a difficult time right now in Amherst because of the potential change in Town Government. Nancy Pagano says she arranged for a private meeting with the consultant hired by the Town to conduct the Town Manager search. Putting senior needs on the priority list is very important.

STAFF REPORTS:

Helen MacMellon gave an update on the Caregiver Grant from HVES which will fund the cost of mailing our newsletter to Pelham for two years and any cost connected with including Pelham residents in our Caregiver Support Group. Helen said she received an email from Pelham Town Clerk with a list of 460 seniors. The next *Senior Spirit* will go to Pelham seniors.

The Pelham COA sent out a questionnaire to its older residents asking for preference of which Senior Center they want to attend...Amherst or Belchertown. Our social work Intern, **Toheeb Bakare**, met with Chestnut Court residents on services available.

Nancy Pagano met with Sandy Pooler, Finance Director, and Dave Ziomek regarding her FY17 budget request. She asked for Helen to become full time (she's currently working 30 hrs a week), for Karen to be fully funded by the Town and for a 19-hour Program Assistant. It was clear the Program Assistant request did not have support.

Nancy wants volunteers to work with her on a transportation sub-committee to see what we (ASC) can offer for transportation services. The AC Women's Softball Team is working with Nancy to organize a pizza/grocery bingo party for seniors.

Maura Plante: Nancy and I met with Amherst College sports team student leaders as part of the AC Community Engagement initiative. The AC students will be volunteering to do yard work, friendly visiting, and in a variety of ways.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.

NEXT COA MEETING: March 3, 2016, at 9:00 AM

Submitted, Tim Atteridge, Co-Secretary

HANDOUTS GIVEN OUT

- **Friends Treasurer's Report**
- **Senior Center FY15 Annual Report**
- **COA FY15 Annual Report**