

COA Board Meeting 11/1/23

Members Present: Les, Kenton, Lorainne, Susan, Don

Les called the meeting to order at 1:04pm

-no public comment

-members reviewed Minutes. Kenton made a motion to approve minutes as written. Susan Seconded minutes. Motion passed 5-0. Kenton requested meetings documents be sent prior to meeting.

-no correspondence

New business:

Directors report:

Tammy reported to the board that she met with Town manager regarding the budget. She was asked to present 3 versions of the budget: ideal budget (wish list), a budget with no changes, and a budget with cuts. Kenton is concerned that we are doing the UMass study with no plan to fund changes at this time. Les explained that this is for long term planning, not immediate actions. Tammy explained that AdCom is not looking at projects that don't have proper backing. This will give the board proper backing to bring to AdCom

Tammy reported that Patty Walker has put in her notice and last day would be Nov. 17th.

Katie O'Brien gave an update to the board on all of the services that she provides to the public here at the COA. She explained the new mobile outreach program that the COA started with VNA, COA, Vet services, And Hanover Mental health services. They will be going to all of the housing sites as well as town depts to show case town wide services. Susan asked about how brown bag works and if it is income based. Katie explained it is not at this time. Les asked who sponsors and pays for Brown bag?(greater boston food bank, no-profit Katie works with someone who works with BAMSI). How long has the town been participating in this (over 6 years). Les asked that we post for volunteers that could help with food distribution. Don encouraged we direct those in need to current services available rather than start another food distribution option. Les asked about the internet assistance program. Wanted to know if Katie knew roughly how many people she has helped people sign up for this. She believes around 6, but will confirm. Les asked how many people take advantage of fuel assistance. Katie said that it is income limitations. We do about 50 applications a year. We don't receive notification if an individual was approved or not unless we hear from the applicant directly. Housing assistance is one of the large services that Katie assists with. ESTRAP is not included in the housing assistance program Katie helps with, she forwards that information to the ESTRAP review group. Senior housing has about a 5-7 year wait lists, which is similar to most communities. Don stressed the need to advocate for prescription drug costs and assistance with that.

Old Business:

Lorraine met with Cathy H-B who encouraged her to meet with planning dept. Cathy printed her out a hand out with business in Town. Susan would like to see a list of Hanover specific businesses that give discounts to build awareness.

The Friends group talked to Dairy Queen and anyone who purchases food between 3and6pm the friends group will receive a certain % of sales.

Lorraine showed the new magazine that will be included in the Hanover Welcome packet. Kenton said that he reached out to Joe and Steve to see if they would do a presentation at COA about it.

Les reported the Rhonda Nyman was contacted by the UMass group regarding the Gerontology study.

Tammy received a report on the total number of Seniors in town and how many homes had residents of 60+. Les had request this information at a prior meeting to see how an override would impact seniors in town.

Board open forum:

Kenton asked if we are talking with other towns who have used the UMass study. (specifically Marshfield). Tammy stated she has talked with other towns who have had successful studies but stressed that every towns is different and the key will be for seniors to be vocal.

Don asked if Patty leaving was funded related. It was not. He asked if it was her choice, which it was.

Susan spoke to State House regarding the ethics test. She figured out a solution to help Lorraine and Don.

Les asked for a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 2:06pm