

**Members in attendance:** Damon Jespersen, Joyce Machiros, John Ferrara, Chris Howe, Gerry DiMaio, Jeanine Cunningham, Josephine Antico, Chuck Bear, Susan Grillo

**Other attendees:** Cindy Currier

Motion to open the meeting made by Damon Jespersen, seconded by Joyce Machiros.

Unanimous approval.

**Audience:**  Leslie Matthews (Select Board Member). Leslie spoke positively of the safety aspects and new features of the new COA van. It was well thought out and planned.

Motion to approve Minutes of Oct 16, 2023 meeting made by John Ferrara, seconded by Joyce Machiros. Unanimous approval.

**Chairperson’s Report**

Review of Council Members’ Participation in COA events:most members participated in various activities/events recently. All are encouraged to participate.

Damon introduced the ballot for COA Ad Hoc Committee for Site Selection to vote for two members to represent the COA on this committee. All members voted by ballot and Cindy Currier counted and shared the result: Damon Jespersen and John Ferrara.

New COA Van tour/ride will be at next COA meeting (December 18, 2023). Cindy will schedule with the driver.

A discussion ensued about the old van status. Cindy reported that it will be appraised and then go to auction. Damon stated that the asset belongs to the town and any money from sale will go to the Town’s free cash account. The Select Board will determine final disposition of the old van and COA suggested they consider other resources (e.g., Veterans Affairs) that may benefit from the van before selling at auction.

**Director’s Report:**

* Old news:
  + Veterans Luncheon well attended (about 35 vets and their spouses). Many thanks to Mike Mangone of The Rusty Can – donated the BBQ lunch.
  + Thanksgiving Luncheon was well attended. 77 people RSVP’d; we served about 65.
  + New Veterans Service Officer: Steve Bohn. Spot on him in the newsletter. He will hold monthly office hours; December is Thursday, December 14th from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Second Floor Hearing Room.
  + Final Did You Know flyer for the COA; 11/21/23 sent to SB for approval at next meeting. If approved, will go out with tax bills on 12/31/2023. Goes to 3400 households; $0.20 per copy; total cost is approximately $680.
  + COA Directory
  + The new van is here! If you have not taken a ride yet and would like to, please let me know. If you just want to get in and take a look we can do that too. Our van goes shopping every Tuesday and most Thursdays. Wednesdays are available for local medical appointments and other errands. We have already taken a group to the Thanksgiving Luncheon and it is available for the holiday luncheon in December. We also take trips to local restaurants. Call us if you need a ride!
* Upcoming programs:
  + Seen Your Feet – Barbara Ullman is a Registered Nurse and licensed medical pedicurist. Starting a monthly medical pedicure service in January. Details in the newsletter. First clinics are January 31st and February 28th from 10am-12pm. Reservations are required. Cost is $30 paid directly to Barbara via cash or check only.
  + Senior Tea @ Triton Tuesday, December 12th from 10-11:30am. Snacks and beverages will be served; performances by the jazz band and chorus. We would like to take a van full of seniors to the performance. Call us to let us know if you would like to attend.
  + Delvena Theater Group will perform A Christmas Carol on Monday, December 18th at 1pm. Freshly made popcorn and candy will be served.
  + Game Nights Tuesday, December 5th and Tuesday January 30Th from 4:30-6:30pm. Dinner and dessert will be served.
  + Tech Class with Kevin: Wednesday, January 24th at 2pm. Topic: taking and organizing photos on iPhone and iPad.
  + Watercolor classes: Wednesday, December 6th and Wednesday, January 24th from 10am-1pm. Class is $20 (cash only). Pay for your spot when you register.
  + Making homemade holiday cards on Thursday, December 7th at 1pm.
  + Holiday Luncheon is Wednesday, December 13th at PITA Hall. Doors open at 11:45am; dinner will be served at 12:30pm. MUST register yourself (no calling on behalf of friends). Newbury residence will be given priority with those from outside Newbury added to a waitlist. If we have openings the week before, we will call folks on the waitlist.
  + Traveling Chef: Thursday, December 7th (carving station with turkey and roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans and gingerbread for dessert) and Thursday, January 11th (clam or corn chowder in a bread bowl, garden salad, and a brownie for dessert). Lunch is served at noon.
  + Coming in January (beginning January 9th) – ping pong at the Field House! Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-1pm.
* IN NEED of Snow Angels. Triton Regional Middle and High School usually provides volunteers to seniors in need. They only had four volunteers come forward this year. We have a long list of seniors in need of some help with shoveling walkways, stairs, pathway to heating source (oil tank, firewood pile, etc.), and clearing snow from the car. NOT clearing driveways. If you can help, please call Sarah Houghton at Triton at 978-518-4255 or call us at the Council on Aging to be matched with a senior.
* December/January newsletter is in; if you can help with stuffing and folding, please stop by to help us!
* Office closed: Monday 12/25 (Christmas) and Monday, 1/1 (New Year’s Day) and Monday, 1/15 (MLK Jr. Day)
* Always in need of NEET volunteers!
* IT is still working to get our phone line direct to us again. For the time being, when you dial our number and hear the recorded message, press “3” to get the COA. You can also still dial ext. 484 to reach us.
* Open Enrollment ends 12/7/2023
  + Call us to get in touch with our SHINE Counselor
  + Call 1-800-MEDICARE

**New Business:**

John Ferrara will continue working with a contact at the Governor’s Academy regarding pickleball space.

Cindy reported that the field house in Byfield has been reserved from 9-1 a couple days a week for ping pong for the winter months. New tables are being assembled and installed.

Chuck Bear asked that COA send a letter to Paula Burke, who recently retired, thanking her for past participation in the COA. Motion: Chuck Bear; seconded by Gerry DiMaio.

The “Did You Know” flyer is done and on the Select Board agenda 11/28/23 for approval to be included in next tax bill to all residents.

Donations can be made to the COA directly and may be designated by the donor for a specific use.

The Friends (FNCOA) annual appeal letter was recently sent out to all Town residents.

Joyce Machiros will attend the next Friends meeting in December.

Motion to establish Dec 18, 2023 as the next meeting made by Chuck Bear, seconded by Joyce Machiros. Unanimous approval. The COA members will have a van tour/ride at that meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Joyce Machiros, seconded by Gerry DiMaio. Unanimous approval.