

Minutes of Plainfield COA Zoom Meeting -January 16, 2023

Present: Polly Ryan, Susan Honneus, Ann Irvine, Shirley Todd, and Mary Potter (late)

The meeting was called to order (approximately) 10:00 AM. (Sue H. recorded the minutes until Mary came on board)

Consortium update: (Susan's notes)

Polly stated that much of the meeting was devoted to stuffing envelopes for the COA survey.

Technical support and advice: (Susan's notes) Caleb is no longer offering computer support. However, Peg Whelan will be available at our luncheons between 1-3 pm by appointment (phone # (413) 404-4566). She can help with questions about smart phones, iPads, tablets, laptops, smart TVs, printing, internet and/or software programs.

COA luncheon: (Susan's notes)

Since we did not have a January luncheon due to a large outbreak of COVID-19, the ham menu will be offered in February. The February 8th luncheon assignments - Ham, Sue H.; Shirley and Ann, veggies; Polly, scalloped potatoes; Mary, dessert.

After lunch, One Plainfield will give a presentation on ways to spend the remaining \$57,000 of the COVID Recovery budget for the town.

Program updates: (Susan's notes)

Yoga, both restorative and combination yoga/art will be provided in January and February at the Parish House in West Cummington. If interested, you can sign up with Judy Messer. Her phone # is (413) 221-3012. Dancing with Polly will be available in March. More information to follow.

Reassigning Susan Pierson's responsibilities:

Shirley offered to take over handling the medical equipment swap at Hathaway Hall and getting COVID tests and masks to the public. The library and transfer station were suggested as places where the supplies could be made available. Mary asked if the tests were cold sensitive since the transfer station "store" is not heated and all agreed that this was not a viable choice.

Polly has offered to take on the folder update project. If any Board members have not completed the assignments, now would be a good time to do it.

Mary will take on the recording of the minutes of the Board meetings. Susan will help with the technical part.

New Board members:

Everyone agrees that we need more Board members. Polly will put notices in the Plainfield Post and COA newsletter. Alternatively, we might find willing volunteers if we ask for help only with the luncheons. These volunteers could sign up for times convenient for them without having to come to Board meetings and get involved with planning, duties, etc.

Dementia Discussions:

Polly, a “Dementia Champion”, is leading a supportive session for those in town afflicted with dementia and their caregivers. January 21st and February 18th at 11:00 AM in Margaret’s Room are the dates and venue. Polly hopes more dates will follow and a support group will develop.

Meeting Space:

Polly addressed the difficulty of finding meeting space for groups that were not town committees and wondered why it is so difficult to get permission to use the meeting room adjacent to the library’s main room and just behind the Town Offices. The matter should be brought before the Select Board since they should have authority over taxpayer-funded property.

Ideas for Future Events:

Boat trip on the Connecticut River, Senior Prom for “Seniors”. Polly would like to see funding for a community center.

Meeting adjourned (approximately) 10:45 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Potter