*COA meeting Wednesday May 14, 2025*

The meeting was called to order by BJ at 3:12pm

Attendees: chair BJ, members Donna, Rachel and Diane, resident Susan Gleason.

**General Business:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2025.

**Past Activities:**

**April Third Thursday Coffee Hour**: Henry Dandeneau’s Loon talk- great feedback

**Scheduled Future Activities:**

***Foot Clinics*:** Continue to go well- will continue this program with a $20 voluntary co-pay for those who can afford it.

***Walking Club*** *-* to continue indefinitely as long as weather permits. Great feedback from residents with this club. 1-1.5 Hour long from 10am-1130am. Continue to be advertised in Goal Post. Walkers have signed liability release forms.

***Bowling club*-** at Shelburne Falls bowling alley. Consensus was to continue through May, but then put a pause for summer months and resume in the fall.

**June Third Thursday Coffee Morning:** Will be cancelled due to it falling on Juneteenth.

***Summer event to Tanglewood*-** Bus to be paid for in part by Cultural Council grant money ($500) and the COA (or ticket sales) will part of the rest. The new bus quote is $ 990 dollars for a 14 person bus- BJ has reserved. BJ has purchased for COA 15 shed tickets to August 3rd- yo-yo MA and Emmanuel Axe at 230pm. Tickets were purchased for $38.95 each, but will sell to residents for $50 to help subsidize cost of bus. First come first serve. Rachel do a flyer in Goal Post with BJs write-up. Donna will sign seniors up, collect money (checks) and give tickets out. Seniors will also receive a ‘To-Bring” list so they do not forget important items (ie. sunscreen, hat, etc).

*\*\* we’ve only sold 3 tickets so far and BJ has reserved 3\*\**

*There has been interest from non-seniors and out of town residents. We will put out Robo-call about Tanglewood giving deadline of June 1st for in-town seniors to buy as first priority and then open up to all Rowe residents. On July 1st we will open to general public if all tickets not sold by this time.*

***Summer Social Pickleball tourney-*** During summer social, held on **Sunday July 13th** there will be a pickle ball tournament- the COA will spend about $100 for prizes (gift cards) for winners. Will revisit this when it gets closer. Also there will be a **cake picnic**- so will need to request volunteers (seniors) to bake for the social. Bakers will be asked to bring a notecard with the ingredients/recipe of their cakes.

***Summer senior luncheons:*** Will be repeated like last year in conjunction with the park. July 24th and August 21st from 11-1 and COA will be in charge of drinks, desserts, and chips.

-BJ will purchase soft drinks (coke, diet coke, ginger ale, seltzer and water), chips, and finger desserts prior to event.

-Donna will contact Briel to check on paper goods and other items needed.

**Future Activities in the works (but getting close)**:

***Grant from Lifepath:*** The money has come through and the wheelchair is purchased but not shipped, the TV purchased and ready to use. Rachel will research and purchase cooler(s) and high chair(s) with the $764 left to spend from the grant

We need to develop some programming to use the television. BJ suggested showing the zoom broadcast of Kate Peppard’s yoga class, but the consensus seems to be that people have been doing it at home so much that they would not come out to do it in the fitness center.

Road Scholar offers some online travel lectures, BJ will look into other programs that we might host during the week.

***Handy Person List***: live Google doc still being added to, but there is enough contact details to get the list into the community. We are unsure of the logistics of putting this list out to the public so will have Donna/Brooke bring this to the selectboard at the next available meeting.

**September coffee morning**: BJ to contact Mohawk Trail State Park for a walk/talk

**October coffee morning:** BJ to ask Deirdre estate planning if she will come to the coffee hour to do a talk

**Potential future activities (but still being brainstormed)**

* *Holiday Snacks (healthy)-* demonstration how to make healthy snacks for the holidays. Putting together a small (easy) cookbook or folks to take home.
* *Community Welcome Guide:* idea brought forth to provide a guide to the area, services, maps, things to do etc for new seniors/residents in town. May be a multi-committee/board effort. Includes local food, shopping, fun/outdoor, handman, medical care, park maps. BJ will create a Google Doc to start adding ideas to this.
* *Rowe “Village”-* a spin-off of the ‘Village” that was set up in Shutesbury, Leverret and Wendell, providing free services /rides to seniors in town. Pre-reg/appointments would be required. Services include handman work, gardening, assistance with household chores, grocery shopping, rides/med rides etc. This is a very large undertaking requiring a lot of research- we will follow up on this at a later date.
* *SENIOR PROM-* a multi-town prom for seniors at the Mohawk HS with music, dancing, drinks and food. To take place in Spring/early summer 2026…will begin the planning for this in the future.
* *Paint and sip*- Donna to look into this for the winter- may be a zoom event, possibly paid for in part by the cultural council.
* *Positivity Speaker*- ? Richie Davis who was a community journalist and author. GCC or Rowe Camp may have suggested speakers- will look into this at a future time. ?Cultural Council to pay for this with grant money.
* *Metal Detecting Club-* still in the works- need to get permissions to walk on personal/town owned land.
* *Pet talk-* getting a local veterinarian/retired vet to come and chat about pet safety/health/ answer pet questions.
* *Combining with other Town COA’s to hold events* (Ie. Heath, Monroe, Charlemont)- Donna has contacted local towns and has invited them to the April coffee morning to hear about Lifepath.
* *Suggestion Box*- It was discussed to put a suggestion box at the Town Hall entrance and in the Library for the seniors/community members to make suggestions of what activities they would like to see or topics they would like to get more information about.
* *Check-in communities/Buddy system*- Household groups of 3-4 would combine to make a ‘pod’ and check-in on each other at least weekly in whatever way suits them- Ie. Text, email, phone call, in-person, social media, etc. The COA would then do a matching process and create the ‘pods’ after sign up is complete. This is voluntary and people/households would be able to add themselves to the pods or discharge themselves as they desire. This will be tabled for the future due to lack of interest/confusion.

**Other Business:**

Susan Gleason attended meeting and wanted to speak on 2 topics: 1) To congratulate the COA on the hard work that is being felt in a positive way in the community. And 2) to make known many seniors’ chagrin at the lack of being able to hear properly at the Annual Town meeting. Strategies and ideas were tossed around about new equipment, better microphones, table arrangements, but at the bare minimum Donna will bring this to Town Administrator, clerk and moderator who can make it clear for those who are speaking to do so directly in the microphone loud, slowly, and clear.

Next meeting is Wednesday June 11th at 3pm.

Meeting adjourned 4:01pm