



Board Meeting Minutes of 3/25/2025

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Howe

Voting Members Attending:

Pete Hoagland, Sally Tipton, Gerri Hawn, Ken Adams, Pam Sampson, Denise Orlando, Lori Howe

Voting Members Absent: Tom Urmston

Non-Voting Associate Members Attending: 0

Non-Voting Associate Members Absent: Carole Marple

Staff Attending: Kristina Gallant, Maura Bennett, Melinda Morle

Community Members Attending: 0 ***Voting Members Absent:*** 1 ***Quorum?*** Yes

Pete opened the meeting with a call to order at 9:33am.

Minutes

The Minutes of the February 28, 2025 Board Meeting were presented for approval. Ken motioned to approve as written, Sally seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (see attached documents)

Gerri reported that COA is doing okay and is right on track, with about 64% of our Town Budget spent. Her report reflects two month's of expenses. There were questions and discussion. Gerri noted that there is still a balance of \$900 in the Tech Grant, to which Kristina added that she likes to use these funds for special situations. Ken commented that Kevin's computer class has been amazing and more helpful than he would have ever thought.

Director's Report (see attached documents)

Kristina began her report by noting that she had quite a lot to cover.

Lifetime Learning has been going really well. Their goal has been to try not to cancel any class and have been doing "recruitment" to fill classes. Today Politics starts at 2PM, Wildflowers begins next week, and the new Law & Order series at the end of April. They will be adding another History series with John which will start at the end of May and run through June 9. They are interested to see how it goes and have a large number of interesting topics that could be

covered. Pam added that she wanted to put a plug in for Creative Writing which is wonderful and so good for brain; Cindy is fantastic and gets an A+.

Our third annual Adult Resource Fair will be held on April 16th from 12 to 1:30PM in the Library. Lunch will be provided by Jackson's Kitchen and paid for by a donation from Dunkin Donuts. Melinda presented plans for set up and how volunteers will be used throughout the event.

Men's Lunch continues to do well and draws a good crowd. The Women's Mother's Day Brunch will be on May 13. Coffee Bar is going very well, with average attendance at 16. Pam noted that it has been a good decision to reduce the schedule to one day per week. She also commented that it is great to have the Police there and that there's always good conversation. Pam also said that we need to thank Dunkin Donuts endlessly for their ongoing generosity. Lori asked Pam if she's noted whether proximity to the Good As New Shop has helped attendance and Pam noted that there have been a few people from GANS who have come over to Coffee Bar.

Kristina went on to discuss *Spring & Summer Programming*, noting that there are a lot of good things in the works and that they are working to finalize the schedule. Activities being planned include Elvis coming again on April 24th; Roger Tiknell, a singer, coming this Summer; and some Kayak trips.

Discussion moved to *Garden Parties*. Kristina announced that two are planned: one at Silverwood Organic Farm on Monday June 2, at 10AM with a light snack and tour, and the other at Unity Farm on Thursday, June 26 at 9:30AM with vegan food and a tour. In addition, Kristina has been talking with Dudley Willis who wants to open his gardens at Charlecote (Saltonstall) Farm again for town residents to enjoy. Discussion ensued. Kristina suggested that she and Sally meet with Dudley to chat about a date to invite the COA and the Garden Clubs for a drop in.

This year's COA Volunteer Celebration will be a brunch on Tuesday, May 6, from 10:30AM to Noon. Chris Carter will be coming again to provide music.

COA's next meeting with the Friends is scheduled for next Monday, March 31, at 9:30AM. Board members are welcome to participate.

Kristina went on to give an update on Tech Classes, noting that initially they were going to charge but classes are now free under a new grant. She reported that Kevin has been really great but the concern has been his fee. Kristina gave the history of our relationship with Kevin over the past two years and said the challenge is how to move forward. We'd like to continue to provide free classes but did not get the other grant applied for. Kristina felt that grants will be harder to get and wants to discuss with the Friends about where they can help COA. There was discussion of what types of things the Friends might support, focusing particularly on tech and lunches. Gerri felt that tech would be a better use of Friends funds and reminded that we still have a lot of money left in the Formular Grant. Kristina will check whether Formula funds can be used for lunches. Kristina wrapped up by saying that she appreciates all the Board's thoughts and suggestions, which have been really helpful. She will cover all the bases at the Friends meeting on March 31st.

New Business

Lori noted that we are due for our annual review of the Community Needs Assessment. Pete asked Kristina to add this to the April agenda.

Gerri asked Kristina how things went on Saturday with our budget review by Advisory Committee. Kristina responded it went well and explained what transpired in the long session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Pete asked for a motion to adjourn. Gerri motioned to adjourn, Pam seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53am.

Minutes Approved on 4/29/2025. Attachments available upon request.

Meeting Schedule for 2025: 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29, 5/27, 6/24, 7/29, 8/26, 9/30, 10/28, 11/25 and December TBD due to holidays.