

Minutes of Special Meeting of Groveland Council on Aging Board of Directors & Friends of  
COA  
Friday, May 12, 2023

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TOWN CLERK  
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Board Members present: Laurel Puchalski Chair, Larry MacElhiney Vice Chair, Marie Waller Treasurer, Barbara Sanborn Acting Secretary, Deb Stephenson, Linda Brown. Absent Irene Thomas.

Friends of the COA present: JoAnna Donnelly Chair, Valerie Osborne Vice Chair, John Osborne Treasurer, Lisa Collins Secretary, Marie Casoli, Alan Wilson, Rita Murray  
Community Member Beth Cunniff

Laurel P. called the meeting to Order. Motion made to open the meeting at 9:35 a.m. by Marie W, second Deb S. Voted and approved.

Laurel P. read the Mission Statement of the Council on Aging.

Self introductions were made around the room.

Larry M. made opening remarks about the importance of the Friends. There are currently 3 open 1 year terms for the following Officer positions; Chairperson due to the retirement of JoAnna D., Vice Chairperson due to the retirement of Valerie O., and Assistant Treasurer which has been vacant. Valerie O. and JoAnna D. stated that they are retiring from their Officer positions, but will remain active members of the Friends.

Discussion followed about the need for fundraising efforts. The raffle calender and the spring yard sale have been successful in the past.

Discussion followed as to the need to get more people involved with the Friends group, both as supporting members and active members who attend regular meetings and work to accomplish goals. Valerie O. stated that the Friends are independent of the COA.

JoAnna D. mentioned that due to illness within the Friends, they can no longer sponsor fundraisers such as the Town wide yard sale. She suggested keeping the yard sale, calender, and perhaps a pizza party or singer for future events. Larry M. stated the COA Board can and will contribute to the Friends' fundraising efforts.

Rita M. volunteered to fill the vacant position of Assistant Treasurer.

Deb S. suggested emailing information regarding future meetings of the Friends to those seniors who have signed up for an email copy of the COA newsletter.

JoAnna D. commented that only 31 people have paid the \$10 membership dues to the Friends. To increase this number, suggestions were made about posting the membership dues form on Facebook, and having a Friends table at town events such as Groveland Day, the annual speedway reunion, and other events.

Unless the Friends can get more active members, it is possible that the group could disband. The Friends are a 5013C organization, meaning that if the group did disband, it would be necessary to file an application with the state and meet many requirements in order to form again in the future.

JoAnna D. expressed appreciation to local businesses that have made contributions to the Friends.

Rita M. suggested having the option on the membership form to check whether the person wishes to be an active member who would regularly attend meetings, in which case there would be no dues required, or a supporting member who would pay \$10 in annual dues.

Larry M. offered to run the winter fundraiser and help with the calendar and spring fundraiser.

JoAnna D said that only 13 people have signed up for Older Americans' Day on May 23. She would like to suggest having only turkey and ham sandwiches as many people did not get the type of sandwich that they wanted at the volunteer appreciation luncheon. Valerie O.

recommended that everyone call two people to inform them about Older Americans' Day and ask them to attend. A robocall did go out regarding this event. The Friends have paid Panera \$540, and the eight dollars paid by each attendee goes back to the COA.

Larry M. stated that there are two applicants for the Director position. Resumes will be distributed today to members of the search committee. Joanna D said that Nisha has done an outstanding job in the absence of a Director.

John O. asked if anyone from the COA board got up at town meeting to speak on behalf of the Council on Aging. Deb S. explained that the new budget includes increased salaries for all positions, and the board felt that the town has done as much as they could, including funding positions fully by the town without the need for funding from grants. Deb S. and Barbara S. explained that the finance subcommittee had several meetings with the Finance Board, the Town Administrator, and Town Accountant regarding the COA budget, where the need for more financial support for the COA was repeatedly discussed.

JoAnna D. commented that meetings where both the Friends and COA board members attend are very beneficial. The date for the next Friends meeting was set for Thursday, June 1, at 3 PM. Nisha will be asked to do a Robo call to inform the community of the date of the meeting. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 made by Larry M., second Deb S. Voted and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Sanborn  
Acting Secretary