



Board Minutes of 2/28/2023 (via Zoom)

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Howe

Voting Members Attending:

Pete Hoagland, Sally Tipton, Jim Campbell, Ken Adams, Pam Sampson, Gerri Hawn, Lori Howe

Voting Members Absent: 0

Non-Voting Associate Members Attending: 0

Non-Voting Associate Members Absent: Pat Gray, Jean Rosseau

Staff Attending: Sue Kelliher, Kristina Gallant, Melinda Morle

Community Members Attending: 0

Voting Members Absent: 0

Quorum? Yes

Call to Order by Chair Pete Hoagland at 9:38 a.m.

Pete Hoagland opened and asked for a motion on the January 31, 2023 Board minutes. Jim moved to accept as written, Sally seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer Report by Gerri Hawn (see attached)

Gerri said that we are now two-thirds through the fiscal year and have spent about 55% of our Expense budget, and 64% with Salaries. Last month's spending was approximately \$1,400. For Senior Café we have spent \$5,552 year to date, which covers food and entertainment. We have taken in \$1,260 in fees which leaves us with a net cost of \$4,392. At this rate, Gerri thinks that we'll be okay on this account through the end of the fiscal year. For Lifetime Learning, we have taken in \$3,835 in revenue and we have only had to pay for one instructor, which was \$600 for the Literature class presenter. There were no questions for Gerri.

Director's Report – by Sue Kelliher (see attached reports). The following are highlights:

- Sue said she'd first like to thank Jim for his stellar work preparing for and presenting to Advisory on our budget increase request. Diane Moores suggested getting as many people to the 3/18 Advisory/Select Board meeting as possible. Peter Gallitano suggested getting residents there who've benefitted from COA Programs. Sue has our Letter of Endorsement signatures and reported that Charlie Williams will be doing Abbey Road.
- The \$6,900 award came in yesterday for the Transportation Grant.
- Sue has been working on getting the other political instructor, David Smailes, to do one of a series. Kristina has spoken with him and he is enthusiastic about doing a four-part series. He's been very responsive. Gerri asked how much he will be charging and Kristina responded he didn't want to charge us anything because his Mom is in a COA in Ohio and it's a little way for him to give back. The series will be offered under Lifetime Learning and begin on April 19 at 1:30 with a talk on Abraham Lincoln. It will be held live (no zoom) in the Select Board Conference Room.

- Another Lifetime Learning will be Game Night featuring the game “Boom”. This was donated by a woman named Dana who lives in town and works in marketing for a game company.

Pete commented that he did some research on our budget info and found most town are bigger and 3 are smaller. Of the small towns, the Assistant Director works 24 hours in Dover, 36 hours in Medfield and 25 hours in Millis. Sue will include this in her write-up.

Community Assessment

There were no updates from anyone. We will next meet on Wednesday, March 15.

Associate Members

Pete encouraged Board members to more actively recruit for new members. Think about who you know. Gerri said she had done a push a while ago, had compiled a list which she will revisit and see if there’s any renewed interest.

New Business

Men’s Luncheon: Ken commented that the Men’s luncheon yesterday was very well done and complimented Melinda. Melinda said there were 25 in attendance including our new Town Administrator, Jeremy. She said Heritage is making a real effort to accommodate us. However every time she goes in there are new staff, so she understands why it’s hard to provide consistent service. Jim said he thinks the setup in the main dining room with long tables works well. Jim reported that he stood up and talked about the need to expand staff hours and everyone there signed in support except Alex Dowse.

Sustainability: The Town’s Sustainability Coordinator joined the meeting. Dorothea thanked the Board for having her. She said that she works with Kristina on a consistent basis and it’s nice being on the same floor in Town Hall now as that gives many opportunities for sharing.

Dorothea gave some background. She started her new job the day the Pandemic hit and spent her first two years in isolation. She doesn’t live in Sherborn but nearby (Needham). She’s a biker, knows the community and wants residents to understand the challenges. Thinks her work aligns with COA and wants to talk about how this looks from her perspective.

Now that things are more normal it’s much better/easier to get input from residents. She does hear a lot from people who ask “What does this woman do?”. She has been working to help reduce emissions from Town buildings, homes, and cars, and prepare the community for the inevitable changes to come. She has been doing this work for ten years. At 42, she went back to school to get her Masters in Sustainability at Harvard. She is in this field for the commitment not the money.

The challenge is really reducing in the home. 44% of carbon emissions are coming from people’s homes. Eversource electricity is a mix of, with 24% renewable, so it’s categorized as “light brown”.

Dorothea went on to say that if everyone did what Gerri & Dick Hawn have done in their home, making it energy efficient, she wouldn’t have a job, which would be great. Jim asked what is in the other 56% of the mix to which she responded that 42% is from cars and 1.6% is from municipal buildings (Sherborn does not have that many town buildings.) She referred us to a graph on her website that gives lots of detail. She also encouraged all residents to sign up for her newsletter.

She went on to say that Gino Carlucci, our Town Planner, has done a lot to make Town buildings “greener” and has helped us get community grants. The main problem is really people’s residences. Dorothea herself has gotten a \$38,000 grant to hire a climate consultant. This grant will also fund “Intergenerational Climate Conversations”. The Governor signed a sweeping bill in 2021 requiring Towns in the Commonwealth to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.

Dorothea went on to describe that for the senior section of *Climate Conversations*, two high schoolers will meet with seniors to determine their challenges to reduce their carbon footprint and discuss how to do it. She is planning on three sessions, or “Climate Cafés”, at which a group of 6 to 10 seniors at a time will interview one-on-one with 6-10 high schoolers. After this, she envisions that conversations would expand among seniors. Using this format, she hopes to understand all the challenges people are facing and take those back to her committee to evaluate/incorporate in the Town’s Action Plan.

Pam pointed out that it’s hard to do this until we have charging stations and other practical solutions available. Dorothea said there is Federal money that will be trickling down to Towns. Gino has been working to get solutions in place. We will have at least two chargers at Town Hall because Eversource installed a transformer there for free that will allow us to have five stations with two chargers each for a total of ten.

Gerri circled back to the intergenerational approach and said she’s all for it. She pushed for setting a date and getting started. Dorothea laid out the timeline. She said they are at the midpoint in the Climate Action Planning process, which is due for completion at the end of June. She wants the Cafes to start soon so that input can be included in the plan. At this time, she expects the Cafes to be #1 end of March, #2 in April and #3 at the end of May. She asked Sue if this seems like a reasonable timeline and Sue did not see any problem.

Ken asked about what adjacent Towns are doing because if they’re not doing anything, won’t that compromise our efforts. Dorothea said that this became a statewide initiative with the signing of the Governor’s bill in 2021 and that there are some competitive funds for Towns that move early. And once our Plan is in place, the Town because eligible for more dollars. The \$369 billion in funding will make a difference.

Sue said she will work with Dorothea to set up the March date and move ahead on the Cafes. Dorothea has a zoom meeting with two fantastic high school students who she’d like the Board to meet. Sue will send the Zoom link to the Board.

Other New Business

Sally brought up Peter Gallitano’s suggestion of getting personal stories from residents who have benefitted from COA. She wonders if there’s someone who would be willing to share. Sue said there are privacy issues. Jim said that if we can get a positive vote from Advisory that would greatly influence Select Board. After he, Sue, and Pete met with the Advisory Chair, Dan Sichel, Jim feels encouraged about how Advisory will react. Dan sent their COA presentation out to the entire committee, but Jim said that he and Pete are prepared to present in person if needed. Jim went on to say that there are still three pressing questions/issues:

1. a lack of understanding of what “outreach” encompasses.
2. a desire to understand what exactly is driving the hours increase.
3. It might be worth having Melinda talk to residents she’s helped to get their stories to further Advisory’s understanding.

Advisory members are concerned that once we undertake to do all the recommendations in the Survey report, we'll need more hours. Jim said that the Board is stepping up and doing more but he wants to hear what Sue thinks about how all these activities will be handled. Sue said that covering all the areas will be challenging because demands on the staff are unpredictable. For example, over the weekend she got a call from a resident who wanted a ride the following Tuesday to a medical appointment, as snow was forecast. She had to have him do the Dial-a-Ride application and get the resident set up in the system, which took a lot of back and forth all weekend. Sue said that personal stories for Advisory are nice but they can never convey everything involved in COA's work. Advisory is getting too much into the weeds on this, asking for hard-to-quantify things not in their purview. For example, Jane on Advisory wanted to see our Action Plan. Gerri asked if Melinda keeps a timesheet and Pam suggested that all staff should. Sue said they do and will keep even closer track of their hours.

Pam said that the need is there, we have great staff, and therefore it's important to keep track of the "free hours staff give to the Town." Jim concurred that we definitely need this for Bloody Saturday on 3/18. Pam asked the status of approval process. Sue said Select Board has not yet approved.

Lori asked how we share people's stories in an anecdotal way while preserving their privacy. Sue said she checks her email all the time so urgent needs are always addressed. Town Committees don't realize how many people don't have anyone else to call. Jim stressed that we have to convince them that the increase was needed before we started the Community Assessment implementation. Gerri confirmed that we definitely submitted this increase request before or at almost the same time that Survey results were delivered to us. Gerri said this shows that the need existed before the plan was begun. Sue will work on a presentation for 3/18 that reflects this input. Lori asked if we should beta test it on some residents outside of COA to get objective reactions before it goes to Advisory/Select Board on 3/18. Gerri reminded Sue that we are available to help her with this; Board members echoed this sentiment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Pete asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: Sally motioned, Gerri seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

Meeting Schedule for 2023: 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/30, 6/27, 7/25, 8/29, 9/26, 10/31, 11/28 and 12/26

Approved on 3/28/2023. Attachments available upon request.