

COA Board Meeting Minutes for Monday March 11th, 2024

The Groton Center

Date	Monday, March 11 th 2024
Time	1:00 p.m.
Location	The Groton Center
Board Members in Attendance	<p>Pascal Miller, Chair Tony Serge, Vice Chair Berta Erickson Carole Carter Michelle Collette Harris McWade (via Zoom) Dottie Zale Lois Young</p>
Board Members absent	Judy Palumbo
COA Staff in Attendance	Nändi Munson, Community Engagement Specialist/Interim Director
Guests in Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy Anderson, COA Volunteer • Gail Chalmers, Treasurer of The Friends of The Groton Elders • Mike Weinberg, Treasurer of The Groton Grange • Pascal introduced Gail and Mike and offered them time to give their presentations before the Board agenda items.

Agenda Items and Notes

Open Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pascal Miller, Chair, officially opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m.
Identify Minute-Taker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dottie Zale offered to take minutes for this meeting.
Overview of the Friends of the Groton Elders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gail Chalmers shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Friends of Groton Elders is a non-profit organization that raises money to support The Groton Council on Aging. • They provide a variety of services to the Council on Aging including: Gay Nineties Celebrations, Valentine’s Dinners, gift cards at Christmas, purchasing

	<p>eye glasses, the water coolers and water, organizing trips, yoga classes, they were very helpful in raising money for the new building, support for both gardens, pool tables, and bedding. The group raises money through Grants, donations, Shredding Day, Valentine’s Day Dinner, "In Memory Of" donations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group has about 12 members that are regular donors. • The Board was very impressed and wished the town knew more about the organization and all that they do.
Overview of the Groton Grange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Weinberg informed that after the Civil War so many fields were unusable for farming because they had been used for warfare. • In 1864, the National Grange began. • Massachusetts has the longest active Grange, started in 1873. • The Groton Grange is a local chapter of the National Grange, a non-profit, progressive fraternal organization. • They offer a variety of activities and services to the Community including: educational workshops and lectures, social events, like contra dancing, town wide clean-up each year, sponsorship of the Memorial Day Breakfast, supply dictionaries for every 3rd grader, scholarships for High School graduates and helped sponsor both of The Groton Center gardens. • Anyone over 14 can join the Groton Grange. • They meet once a month at The Grange Hall on Champney Street. Contact information: Mike Weinberg, 978-448-6108. • The Board members were very impressed with both organizations and the work that they do for the town. • Michelle will contact the Groton Non-Profit Council for next month.
Acceptance of February 12, 2024 Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the February 12, 2024 minutes. Edits were documented. Carole made a motion to move. Lois Seconded the motion.
Update on Building Rental Agreement Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groton non-profit organizations will have their rental fee waived through June 2024. Mark Haddad will continue to work on funding for the building Monitor.
Update on Director position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After reviewing the Director applications, the final candidates were interviewed by a subcommittee established by Mark Haddad. One COA Board member, Michelle Collette, participated in the subcommittee interview process. The subcommittee felt that one of the applicants stood out and recommended Nicole Sarvela for the COA Director vacancy. The Select Board will vote on Nicole Sarvela's appointment this evening, March 24. Nicole indicated she would be able to start in two to three weeks.
Update on COA transportati	<p>Nandi Munson presented the monthly report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see the entire report on file. Highlights of the report include: • A full house for the Valentine's Day Luncheon, sponsored by The Friends of Groton Elders.

<p>on and programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senior Safe presentation by Derek Maskalenko from Groton Fire was well received. • The Gender Identity, Lunch and Learn Series, continues to teach on this timely topic. • Memory Café also continues to grow, helping family members and caregivers. • Our gratitude to River Court, once again, for their support and partnership with The Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach Coordinator Nickole Boardman celebrated National Chili Day with about 60 people. Supper Club and Lunch Bunch continue to be popular. With the help of The Groton Trust, a new refrigerator was purchased for a senior with limited income. See detailed report on all services provided from 02/01/2024 to 02/29/2024 on file. <p>Van Dispatch Report This month there were 305 Duplicated rides and 43 unduplicated rides from 02/01/2024 to 02/29/2024. This was a short month due to one snow day and 1 Monday holiday. There were no special trips this month due to weather concerns. Currently we are short on van drivers; the position has been posted. See detailed Dispatch Report on file.</p>
<p>AARP Tax Program Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointments for AARP Tax Aide is increasing. The program ends the first week of April.
<p>Update from Squanicook Sportsman Club</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update at this time.
<p>Update from Bi-law Review Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittee will meet March 18, 2024. Suggested bylaw revisions will be drafted and a public notice for the meeting will be issued.
<p>Update from Groton Center Community Garden Liaison</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update at this time.
<p>Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lois suggested submitting an article about The Groton Center to a local Magazine, the Groton Dunstable Living Magazine. The editors will come to the Center, do photos, and write the story. • Harris suggested we prepare the information, including our programs and collaboration with so many other groups. Nandi will look into this suggestion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a discussion about inviting representatives from other non-profit organizations to future COA Board meetings for presentations. • Tony suggested we invite the non-profit town groups to speak at the Lunch and Learn programs. All agreed that one program at a time would be best.
Future Meeting Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting is April 8, 2024 at 1:00 pm • Michelle moved to adjourn the meeting. Lois seconded the motion. • Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.