

**PAXTON COA BOARD MEETING  
JOHN BAUER SENIOR CENTER  
17 WEST STREET  
APRIL 3, 2024**

**Meeting called to order by Chair Anita Fenton at 9:30 a.m.**

**Present: Members** Martha Akstin, Joan Bedard, Anita Fenton, Curtis Hammar, Frank LaFlash, Kathryn Mahoney, Donmarie Sespaniak. **Associate Members:** Dick Bedard, Robert Lamotte, Natalie Siemen. **Director:** Cindy Love

**1 Minutes**

February 21, 2024, special bylaw meeting minutes were reviewed with no changes. Motion to accept minutes made by Kathryn Mahoney, seconded by Donmarie Sespaniak. Accepted without changes by unanimous voice vote.

March 6 COA board minutes were reviewed with no changes. Motion to accept minutes made by Kathryn Mahoney, seconded by Donmarie Sespaniak. Accepted without changes by unanimous voice vote.

**2. Chair's Report**

1. Nomination of Gary Goldberg as Associate COA board member. Gary introduced himself. Motion to accept his membership was made by Kathryn Mahoney, seconded by Frank Laflash.
2. Reminder board members are encouraged to participate in COA programs. The art show is still on display and voting for Best in Show is still open.

**3. Director's Report**

1. Financial report was presented and reviewed. Budget is right on target with a few months remaining in the fiscal year. Report on file at the Director's office.
2. COA van transportation fare is free through March. Keeping Ken on as a driver through June 30 to take care of medical appointments already scheduled. We might share the van with the Assessor's officer who will pay for their gas.
3. April 1 we transferred to the SCM Elder Services/WRTA van with no reported issues with it or registering for rides. Five residents from the Hills used the van for Bingo.
4. Heather Munroe, Paxton Town Manager, is presenting at 10 a.m. today at COA about options being considered for the town budget, which is in a critical state, before the town meeting in May.
5. ADA grant for the building: Only one bidder responded. Any modifications have to go before the Historical District for approval. If there are any costs over the \$25,000 grant, monies will come from the Formula Grant. Looking at ADA issues in the whole building. Work needs to be done by June 30.
6. Heather and Cindy continue to work on rules and regulations for use of building by community groups.
7. Curtis has observed issues with lower lot and PCS students during recess interacting with cars parked in that lot. Also, some parents have been using COA parking lot to drop off and pick up their kids, which makes an issue for people using COA building for programs. Also, the special needs bus was driving through COA parking lot too quickly. Spoke with principal, who sent a letter to parents and things seem to be getting better with all these concerns.

8. April 18: Paxton Cultural Council-sponsored music program; next Tuesday, April 9, is Friends of COA meeting; Cardmaking for beginners April 23; Alaina's class on self-care has been well received; Dr. Lock will be here April 16; chair massage has been well received; another Paxton Cultural Council-sponsored program, Abby Kelly Foster, is scheduled for May 16.

#### 4. New Business

1. Martha spoke about the Inspector Generals' training she attended on March 13 in town regarding Board and Committee responsibilities. Their guide and video are available on the IG website: [mass.gov/ig](https://mass.gov/ig)
2. Kathryn talked about receiving a letter from the IRS regarding someone using her Social Security number. Perhaps we could sponsor a talk about identity theft for the community.
3. Friends of COA's annual board meeting will be held at 10:30 on April 9, followed by a program from cartoonist Rick Stromoski, which starts at 11. Lunch will be provided but please RSVP.

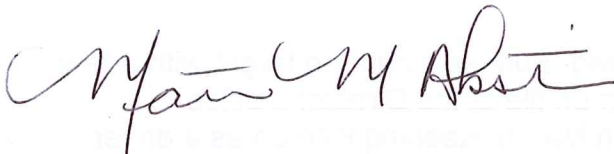
**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Akstin, Secretary

These April 3, 2024 minutes were approved at the May 1, 2024 COA meeting.

  
1 May, 2024

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