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Amesbury COA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2026

In Attendance: Arthur Levine, Chair and Interim Treasurer; Maggie Miller, Vice Chair; Cynthis Costello, Secretary; Sue Ballard; Kliggie Thomas; Janice Pawlick; Cynthia Costello; Jim Chapman; Sarah Player, Director of Senior Center; (representing the FCOA) Kathy Berman.

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Art.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- $5000 MCOA Grant has been forwarded to City Council to be formally accepted by the City & transferred to COA.

Director's Report, presented by Sarah Player:

- Discussion continued on description of what spaces in the Costello Center are available for use by the COA and how these spaces are currently utilized: in particular, whether spaces are currently used for regularly scheduled programs, as opposed to occasional, special events. The group noted the importance of tracking how many attend various activities. We need to track numbers, names, and addresses to determine best use of various programs/activities and utilization of space. Cynthia suggested having info sheets to be filled in at each activity session.

- Discussion of how we can spread the word about all the center has to offer? Sarah is meeting with various city department heads to work on areas of possible collaboration. Discussion of outreach via outside signage, newspaper, social media, city website, word of mouth, etc.

- It was noted that according to the by-laws, COA holds 10 meetings per year. Members are appointed for three-year terms, with a requirement of attendance at 8 meetings per year.

- Cathy Berman gave an update on funds donated to COA this year a result of FCOA's many fund-raising activities. She also made an appeal to publicize the fact that we have a brand new commercial stove, which we cannot use at this center and would like to sell at a reduced price as soon as possible.

- It was noted that Sarah was a guest of Amesbury Rotary club earlier in the day and gave an in-depth talk, describing all the many programs offered to seniors by the Council on Aging at the Costello center on Elm Street.

- Many of the above topics will continue to be discussed and acted upon in future meetings

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15. The next meeting is October 8, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Costello
Secretary