

**PAXTON COA MEETING
JOHN BAUER SENIOR CENTER
17 West Street
JULY 6, 2022**

Meeting called to order by Anita Fenton, Chairman at 9:30 a.m.

Present (Members): Joan Bedard, Robert Callahan, Alice Crowley, Anita Fenton, Curtis Hammar, Frank LaFlash, **(Associate Members):** Martha Akstin, Donmarie Desrosiers, Robert Lamotte, **Others:** Cindy Love

Minutes: Accepted June 1, 2022 minutes by unanimous voice vote with a correction to the minutes: "Meeting being called to order at 9:30 am and not 9:00 am".

Treasurer's Report: Accepted the final FY 2022 report as read by unanimous voice vote.
Treasurer's Report on file at the COA office, John Bauer Senior Center

Old Business

- (1) The Chairman introduced a letter by Joan Bedard and requested everyone complete reading it before the reorganization began (a copy will be entered into the minutes). After some discussion, the following members were nominated and approved by a unanimous vote:
- a. Anita Fenton as Chairman
 - b. Alice Crowley as Vice Chairman
 - c. Joan Bedard as Secretary
 - d. Robert Callahan as Treasurer

New Business

- (1) Meeting of August 3rd will include the Café, (2) The Board should consider a departure gift for anyone leaving the board, (3) Invitation to the new Town Administrator to attend a board meeting in the Fall.

Director's Report

- (1) Special thanks to Curtis Hammar for his assistance everywhere it is needed, (2) Kathryn Mahoney, who has been assisting in the kitchen was introduced to the board - Thanks Kathryn, (3) Art Show for August and September will include members from Paxton and neighboring communities, (4) Food Pantry - Thanks to Howe's Farm for their contributions of vegetables and fruit, (5) Café returns on August 3rd.

Next meeting: August 3, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Bedard, Secretary

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Comments by Joan Bedard at the COA Board Meeting on July 6, 2022

The agenda for the June meeting included an item for the "Reorganization of the Board Officers". That item was tabled until the July meeting after discussion on (1) My resignation as Secretary and (2) the bylaws stating a maximum term of three (3) years in the same office.

1. My resignation as Secretary

Last month, I told you that I would be giving up my position as Secretary at the July meeting. Since then, for the benefit of the board, I would like to continue in this position provided someone would nominate me for the position of Secretary at this time.

Since I mentioned the subject of nominations above, I would like to nominate Alice Crowley to the position of Vice-Chair.

2. The bylaws stating a maximum term of three (3) years as an elected officer in the same position.

As Secretary, it is my responsibility to maintain the COA minutes for past years. I reviewed the minutes since 2011, with regard to the Secretary's position and found the following information from the July meeting minutes:

Curtis Hammar was Secretary from 2011 to 2017 (7 years) and I was Secretary from 2018 to 2022 (5 years).

I also checked the bylaws and found in Article VIII, Section 1, Part b the following: "Officers of the COA Board shall be elected annually at the July meeting of the COA by a majority vote of the members present, and shall take office upon election. Term of office shall be one year. Except for the treasurer, no officer shall serve more than three consecutive terms in the same position."

I feel that we could (1) ignore the last sentence above and fill the positions from the board members willing and able to serve in the four positions or (2) eliminate the last sentence from the bylaws and not worry about this each year.

Also last month was some discussion about how we could not change the bylaws because the State was somehow involved and we would have to get them involved. The Council on Aging was established under Massachusetts General Law: MGL Chapter 40, Section 8B, which reads "A city by ordinance or a town by bylaw may establish a council on aging for the purpose of coordinating or carrying out programs designed to meet the problems of the aging in coordination with programs of the department of elder affairs. The council shall submit an annual report to the city or town and shall send a copy thereof to the department of elder affairs."