1. Meeting called to Order at 1:30 p.m.

   a. **Members Present:** Marge Payne, Bob Stetson, Paddy Hunt, David Sill, Maureen Donnelly, Mary Pickard,
   
   b. A quorum is present
   
   c. **Staff Present:** Anthony Ansaldi
   
   d. Open Meeting Law Reminder

2. The Friends of COA joined us for special joint meeting to discuss space needs for senior programming within the community. They included Barbara McRae, Nancy Levine, Andy Fredette, Dottie Ruiz, Carol Vales, Sharon Corbin.

3. Marge Payne opened the meeting with an explanation and welcome to the Friends Board.

4. Paddy Hunt handed out a list of needs (see attached) prepared by the Space Subcommittee of the COA Board

5. A discussion started with many people indicating the immediate need of space for senior programming.

6. It has become imperative that we provide the town space committee with specifics of our needs and to perhaps act immediately on interim space.

7. Marge Payne has discussed with Emmett Schmarsow (State Elder Services Director) regarding community centers vs. Senior centers. He pointed out that community centers tend to push the senior needs aside and the sharing does not work.

8. Barbara McRae said she and others had visited other senior centers. Single use seems to be the most effective.

9. It was suggested as a possibility to unite a medical facility with a senior center.

10. Maureen Donnelly suggested that it would take almost 20,000 square feet to meet the growing senior population.
11. It would be best to have a plan. 1) If the state might have some grants, we should invite our State Reps to a meeting to see if we could get some of those grants immediately. DCU would cost about $2 Million, for example. It would give us an immediate Senior Center (interim to meeting the real needs). This would be a short-term solution. Do we want to invite our State Reps to our February meeting? Alan McRae suggested it might be early to invite State Reps without knowing there are specific grants. He suggested we need to press the Selectmen since this is where the funds will ultimately come from. Selectman Chuck DeCoste then stated that there is money, but it must be justified and the then voted by the Town. DUC has open space on the first and 2nd second floor and is ADA compliant.

12. The State Elder Services indicated some towns have build a Senior Center with greater land area for future expansion. It must be done carefully.

13. We must realize there are younger as well as older seniors with different needs.

14. We also must realize many groups are searching out answers (including our needs) i.e. the town space needs committee.

15. Barbara McRae said we need to stop deciding what others are doing, and determine what we need and to work specifically to our needs (i.e. an adequate senior center).

16. Paddie suggested we share by email to her with our reactions to the proposed needs list.

17. It was suggested a group go to DCU and consider its possible use as a senior center. It was moved and seconded to have a group assigned to visit the DCU and bring back a recommendation. Nancy Levine with coordinate the group. It was voted unanimously by the COA Board. The Group will meet at DCU parking lot at Jan 8 Tuesday at 1 p.m.

18. It was noted that at the present time we are looking into a separate Senior Center, leaving the option to go in a different direction if circumstances require.

19. The entire group meeting today will meet February 1 at 1:30 p.m. location to be determined.

20. It was voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 pm

**Next COA Board Meeting:** January 14th, 2019 (Please mail suggested agenda topics to chair 7 days prior to meeting)

Respectfully Submitted

**Robert Stetson**

Robert Stetson, Secretary