

Harvard Council on Aging  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Present: Deb Thomson, Hank Fitek, Sue Guswa, Beth Williams,  
Victoria Hayao, Katie Petrossi, Bruce Dolimount  
COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder Connie Larrabee  
Doug Lee (Friends of the COA), Charlotte Winchell, outreach  
coordinator  
Absent: Fran Maiore

The meeting was convened at 4:03 p.m. in the old library  
(temporary senior center)

The minutes of the October 18, 2016 meeting were approved as  
corrected

**Treasurer's Report** The account balances are as follows:

Revolving funds \$8,697.93

MART \$26,823.25

Payroll \$77,228.62 (posted amt. after the meeting)

Gift account \$40,067.59 includes a recent \$20,000 gift)

Formula Grant – not posted yet - \$2,796.16 expended

**Director's Report**

The new outreach coordinator is Charlotte Winchell, an  
experienced case manager who has lived in Harvard for 12 years.  
Charlotte is expected to start work the last week in November.

MART (Montachusett Regional Transit Authority): We have been  
assigned a newer van with 120,000 miles on the odometer. The new  
van is a bit more comfortable than its predecessor, but we will  
continue to pursue our request for a new van. Debbie will check  
with the drivers over the next month to keep track of its  
performance.

Under the MART contract, MART will cover 20 percent of the  
director's salary, which will bring additional income to the town.

Katie suggested that we discuss making a claim on that money for additional operating expenses.

Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging (MCOA) Conference: Among the many good workshops were two of particular interest to the Harvard COA: one on the stigma of “hoarding” and another on senior transportation issues. Debbie will follow up with the presenters of the latter workshop for advice about dealing with MART.

Board members are needed to help set up and serve dinner at the COA holiday party December 20 at noon.

### **Capital Planning and Investment Committee Requests**

The board discussed strategies for moving forward with the COA requests for a new van, and advancing Phase 2 consideration to FY19. The selectmen refused to support moving Phase 2, so it remains on the capital plan in 2021.

Strategies could include:

- Identifying and supporting selectmen candidates who would be more inclined to support Phase 2
- An increased COA presence at meetings of the selectmen and the Planning Board
- Inviting selectmen and other officials to special events, and asking them to help serve
- Building a groundswell of support through neighborhood teas and advocacy at other events.

Debbie reported that the selectmen and Capital Planning Committee seem supportive of the COA’s van request, but CPIC wants an update on the current van’s performance before deciding on the urgency of the request.

### **Survey**

There have been 165 responses so far, about half what is needed for a good sample. Katie will put a link to the survey on Nextdoor Harvard and surveys will be distributed at the Thanksgiving dinner, exercise and computer classes, and other town gatherings. The goal

is to get a sufficient number of responses by the end of November, but the timeline can be extended if necessary.

### **Hildreth Housing Committee**

The selectmen's Housing @ Hildreth House Committee has been appointed. The members are Lucy Wallace, Sue Guswa, Hank Fitek, Al Combs, Victor Normand, Fran Nickerson, and Rick Maiore. Sue said the committee's first job is to determine what can be built on the property and report to the selectmen by early February. Then, depending on what they find, the committee will work on an RFP for developers.

### **Friends of the COA Update**

- The FCOA yard sale on November 5 netted about \$1,200.
- Sue said future fundraising efforts should focus on kitchen improvements and the van.
- Beth reported that the FCOA is trying to organize a way to piggyback on Celebration this year, opening the school to seniors for their own next-day event.
- The FCOA and COA will meet jointly after the January 17 FCOA meeting. Board members agreed that a potluck supper would be included.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 4 p.m. The agenda will include an update from the housing committee (Sue) and a report on the status of the HH water and sewer connections (Bruce)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee