

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Present: Deb Thomson, Bruce Dolimount, Sue Guswa, Beth Williams, Victoria Hayao, Katie Petrossi, Fran Maiore

Absent: Hank Fitek

COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee, selectmen liaison Lucy Wallace, Minuteman Senior Services representative Pam Frederick

Friends of the Council on Aging board member Sharon Briggs, Planning Board Chairwoman Kara Minar and member Fran Nickerson

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

The minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Account balances are as follows:

Revolving funds	\$ 7,716.30
MART	19,112.11
Payroll	52,033.50
Gift account	42,492.54
Formula grant	7,095.88

Director's Report

The move back to Hildreth House is set for Tuesday, February 28. Volunteers will be needed to help pack before the move.

The COA was without phone service for two days when Verizon inadvertently switched the lines while installing lines at Hildreth House.

MART SHUTTLE

The board had a lengthy discussion about the proposed van service to and from nearby commuter rail stations early in the morning and in the evening. Kara Minar explained that the town pays a \$28,000 assessment every year to the MBTA because of Harvard's proximity to train service and the money could be applied to costs associated with running the shuttle. The town is considering using the COA van, which would be less expensive than using a MART van from Fitchburg. The consensus of board members was that the proposed shuttle would primarily serve commuters, not elderly residents, and that the evening pickup at the Littleton/495 station might conflict with seniors' late-afternoon medical appointments. And it would almost certainly limit the use of the COA van for day trips out of town.

The only advantage of the proposal would be if MART provided Harvard with a second van that the COA could use when the shuttle was not running. Kara Minar agreed to ask MART if that might be a possibility. Otherwise, board members agreed the shuttle would not benefit the COA and that any added income would be consumed by increased administrative costs.

Board members considered a motion to inform the Planning Board that the COA does not support use of the COA MART van for the shuttle and that the commuter shuttle should be a separate program. But the board took no action on the motion pending further information from town officials. The Planning Board is conducting a survey to see how many residents would be interested in using the shuttle.

Friends of the Council on Aging

Sharon reported that the FCOA is looking for new fundraising ideas and new board members too. The idea of having a FCOA fundraising event linked to Bromfield's after-prom Celebration fell through, but another possibility might be to hold an antiques appraisal day, which has been a popular event in other towns.

The FCOA will need a new treasurer when Doug Lee's term ends in June. The Friends hope to attract new board members through a Volunteer Fair held in conjunction with the League of Women Voters.

Survey – Katie Petrossi

The board discussed how the COA survey results could best be summarized for the selectmen. Katie will work on breaking out responses from people who plan to stay in town. The report will be presented to the selectmen at their March 7 meeting.

Housing @Hildreth House Committee – Sue Guswa

The housing committee has chosen an engineering firm, TTI Environmental, Inc. to work on a preliminary site plan for housing on the Hildreth property. The committee plans to report on its progress at Annual Town meeting and bring a proposal to dispose of the land to a special town meeting in the fall. The housing units will all be moderately priced, but there will be a range of sizes and prices.

Upcoming dates to remember

March 14 - St Patrick's Day lunch at St. Theresa's

March 20 – Candidates forum (three candidates for Board of Selectmen)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee
