

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Present: Bruce Dolimount, Hank Fitek, Victoria Hayao, Fran
Maiores, Carl Sciple, Beth Williams
COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie
Larrabee, Minuteman representative Pam Frederick, Friends of
the Council on Aging treasurer Sharon Briggs
Absent: Deb Thomson, Carol Lee Tonge, Cathy Walker

The meeting was convened at 4 p.m. at Hildreth House

The minutes of the January 16, 2018 board meeting were
approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report - Bruce Dolimount

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving Funds	\$ 8,345.84
MART	20,676.40
Payroll	48,767.33
Gift account	63,231.15
Formula grant	----- Payment not yet received

Director's Report

The outreach department is working with Minuteman
Protective Services on three open cases. COA staff members
are mandated reporters, required to report instances where
they think someone might be in danger of being hurt, or is
unable to care for him- or herself. An open case is one that
Minuteman has investigated and determined to be important
enough for further attention. Such cases take a lot of time and

coordination with Minuteman, Nashoba Nursing, local attorneys, and family members.

Discussions are continuing with MART over provisions of a new contract with all member towns. MART is unwilling to reimburse van dispatcher time for what it considers to be “indirect services,” such as time spent booking van trips, contacting seniors, and doing the monthly report. Doug Lee will help Debbie calculate how much of the COA administrative assistant/van dispatcher’s job qualifies as reimbursable “direct services” under MART guidelines.

The annual St. Patrick’s Day lunch will be March 15 at noon at St. Theresa’s. Chef Bill Ference will cook the meal and the Lions Club will help serve.

On April 27, the COA will hold its annual volunteers luncheon. Governor Baker tried to increase the formula grant up to \$12 an elder for FY19 but it didn’t pass the legislature. The figure has been raised to \$11 per senior, up from \$9.70 (a total of \$10,805.80) this year.

Debbie will ask Glen Frederick for advice about buying a dishwasher for Hildreth House. A generous donor gave money for a dishwasher several years ago but the purchase was delayed pending connection to town sewer and water.

Friends of the Council on Aging – Sharon Briggs

Given that the COA has a healthy balance in its gift account, the FCOA has decided to use the bulk of its fundraising proceeds this year to start a capital fund by investing \$20,000 with Fidelity. Half of the money came from fundraising this year, and half from previous years. In the future, the FCOA board agreed to add half of what is raised every year to the capital fund.

Housing @ Hildreth – Hank Fitek

Hank reported that Planning Board member Fran Nickerson is working on a survey to try to determine how much residents would be willing to pay for one of the proposed senior housing units on the Hildreth land, and how much space they would need.

The Housing@Hildreth Committee discussed the citizen petition requiring that 25 percent of the housing be affordable, but did not take a formal position. The general consensus was not favorable, however. The group will continue the discussion and take a position at its next meeting.

The COA board will also discuss the petition and take a position next month.

Buildings and Grounds – Bruce Dolimount

Bruce noted that the DPW has been doing a much better job of sanding the driveway and parking lot in slippery weather.

Minuteman Senior Services – Pam Frederick

The new Minuteman kitchen is supposed to be open this month. The kitchen provides Meals on Wheels, as well as most of the Tuesday and Thursday meals at Hildreth House.

Minuteman received a state CHNA grant to research how to train Meals on Wheels drivers to formalize their reports. Since the drivers are in seniors' homes on a regular basis, they are in a position to see if the seniors need more help. Their reports can be an important resource for senior service providers,

Phase 2 Progress – Carl Sciple

In late January, several COA Phase 2 subcommittee members visited senior centers in Pepperell and Townsend and were impressed by those facilities and their programs. Beth Williams also visited Northborough's senior center and reported her findings. At each facility, the need for more storage and program space was a consistent theme. The

committee's focus was on senior centers with large multipurpose rooms for dining and other programs. Carl suggested finding a corporate sponsor to help pay for Phase 2 renovations, like Sterilite did for the senior center in Townsend. He suggested approaching Cisco Systems, whose campus abuts Harvard on the Boxborough line. Two concrete suggestions resulted from these visits: having a drop-in coffee time every morning, and installing a gas or electric "fire" in the HH fireplaces. It appears certain that the COA request for \$40,000 will be on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting May 5. Beth will be away, but Carl and Victoria will speak for the article. Hank and Carl, as the COA representatives on the H@HH Committee, will consult with Victoria about the best strategy for presenting the request to the town.

New Business

Beth asked if the COA is interested in marching in the July 4 parade again this year. Several board members said they had other plans for the holiday.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.
The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder
