

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 17, 2018

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

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

The minutes of the March 20, 2018 board meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report - Debbie Thompson

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving Funds	\$ 8,455.34
MART	12,026.08
Payroll	32,432.74
Gift account	60,985.29
Formula grant	5,748.96
Kitchen carts	1,052.66 *

- Town meeting last year appropriated \$2,000 for kitchen carts. Having purchased all the large carts we need, Debbie plans to buy one more small cart to hold a puzzle, and a couple of chairs/stools that go with the carts.

Director's Report

The outreach department is working with protective services to help four seniors due to self-neglect. We are also working with a homeless woman, helping her find suitable low-income housing.

Debbie is still working with Tim Bragan to settle a dispute with MART about invoicing “direct” versus “indirect” costs. The MART contract with its member towns is still not finalized after months of difficult negotiations.

The COA will honor its volunteers at a luncheon on Friday, April 27. Debbie will present a mock check to the town for \$47,227.50, representing the amount COA volunteers have saved the town this year.

In a brief review of coming events, it became clear that the traditional ham and bean supper had no sponsor. Carl volunteered to ask the Knights of Columbus if they would sponsor the ham and bean supper in September. Other scheduled events include a police pizza party and an ice cream social, both in June.

Friends of the Council on Aging – Sharon Briggs

The FCOA is not having an annual meeting in May or June, but intends to wait until fall, perhaps after the new Phase 2 design is done so it can be publicized. Carl estimated the plan could take 6 months.

Planning for First Night is just starting and will also gear up in the fall.

Housing @ Hildreth

There was no Housing@Hildreth meeting this month and nothing new to report.

Buildings and Grounds

There was no buildings and grounds report.

Minuteman Senior Services – Pam Frederick

Pam reported that Minuteman has added 30 positions to expand its services. The agency is using grant money to help

caregivers for clients with dementia, and is hiring three more people to help seniors with money management – writing checks, paying bills, etc.

Phase 2 Progress – Carl Sciple

Carl reported on his initial efforts to identify corporate sponsors who might help pay for Phase 2 renovation and expansion. He said there are nearly 100 businesses at Devens, in addition to Cisco in Boxborough and Rollstone Bank in Harvard. Board members were enthusiastic about the idea, but cautioned that the COA cannot solicit donations for the building project – corporate or otherwise. It can only provide information about the project, leaving fundraising to the FCOA. Victoria, Beth and Carl volunteered to work with the FCOA on this initiative, and Sharon gratefully accepted their help. Deb volunteered to draft a post on Nextdoor Harvard, asking for feedback on companies that might be interested in community involvement.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article 36: Citizen Petition

After a brief discussion, the board voted 4-2 to take no official stand on the citizen petition that would require 25 percent of the proposed Housing@ Hildreth development to be affordable housing. Most board members expressed opposition to the article on the grounds that its passage would defeat the original goal of creating moderate-priced senior housing for current town residents, and would make it more difficult to attract developers. But members concurred that the board should not take a stand as a board unless the feeling was unanimous.

Article 39: Means-tested Senior Tax Exemption

The board voted unanimously to support this article. There was no discussion.

The board meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.
The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled
for Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder
