

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 16, 2018
Hildreth House

Present: Bruce Dolimount, Fran Maiore, Guy Oliva, Carl Sciple, Carol Lee Tonge, Cathy Walker, Beth Williams, COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee

Absent: Victoria Hayao, Deb Thomson, selectmen liaison Lucy Wallace

The meeting was convened at 4:02 p.m.

The minutes of the September 18, 2018 board meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report - Bruce Dolimount

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving funds	\$ 8,215.99
MART	28,880.48
Payroll	101,652.45
Gift account	63,374.32
Formula Grant	8,834.78

Previous accounting problems at Town Hall have been resolved for now, and the amount shown in the gift account is accurate.

Harvard's state Formula Grant figure is set at \$12 per senior this year, for a total of \$11,946.35, based on the 2010 census.

Director's Report

Debbie submitted a report to Tim Bragan outlining the need for additional transportation options for seniors and disabled residents. The report included the estimated cost of buying and operating a town-owned van – possibly an SUV – that would provide a flexible and cost-effective addition to the current MART van. Cathy helped research and document the cost options. The COA provided a total of 2,883 rides this year for shopping, medical appointments, and other activities, in

addition to more than 300 rides provided by Harvard Help when the COA van was not available.

The two weekly grocery shopping trips have become increasingly crowded and some shoppers buy more food than they can carry. That poses a problem for van drivers, who are not supposed to be helping shoppers load and unload their groceries. The board discussed several options that might help, including encouraging shoppers to have at least some of their groceries home-delivered each week. The board agreed it would be useful to schedule an informational program about home-delivery services some Tuesday or Thursday after lunch.

Another option might be for the COA to buy grocery carriers on wheels for shoppers to use on these trips. The board also discussed the feasibility of scheduling an additional shopping day.

The traditional Thanksgiving dinner from Bob's Turkey Farm will be held Thursday, November 8 at St. Theresa's. Any board members who can help set up, serve, and/or clean up should plan to arrive around 11 a.m. Help will also be needed at the October 30 Halloween lunch at Hildreth House.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Friends of the Council on Aging

There was no formal report from the FCOA, but the FCOA's annual fundraising letter took up the front page of the November newsletter, which will be sent to every household in town.

Housing @ Hildreth– Carl Sciple

The Housing @ Hildreth House Committee is still waiting for the Fire Department traffic study to be completed before moving ahead with its plans. The study is expected to be completed at the end of October.

Program Committee – Carol Lee Tongue

The December program will be a clutter control presentation by humorist Dave Downs on Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Hildreth House. Carl will ask Peter Warren if he'd be willing to hand out a printed blurb advertising the program at the firemen's turkey raffle.

Buildings and Grounds – Bruce Dolimount

Bruce will contact Tim Kilhart about doing another “bucket brigade” to provide seniors with sand for their slippery sidewalks this winter.

Minuteman Senior Services

There was no Minuteman report this month.

Phase 2 – Carl Sciple and Guy Oliva

The request for qualifications for a Phase 2 architect has been held up until a traffic study of the area around Town Hall and the Common is complete. Board members agreed they see no reason for this to delay hiring an architect, which has halted progress on developing a new Phase 2 plan and launching a fundraising effort.

Carl argued that Phase 2 fundraising should proceed as soon as possible, based on the existing schematic design if necessary. He urged Carol Lee to relay that message to the FCOA.

New Business

Beth reported that some residents who stopped at the COA’s flea market table said they didn’t know where Hildreth House is. Board members agreed on the need for signs at the end of the driveway and on Ayer Road. Bruce will see what can be done to restore the old Hildreth House sign that used to hang at the end of the driveway and was taken down during Phase 1 site work.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder
