

Joint Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors, Friends of the COA
Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
Hildreth House

Present: Bruce Dolimount, Fran Maiore, Guy Oliva, Carl Sciple, Deb Thomson, Cathy Walker, Beth Williams, COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee
FCOA Treasurer Sharon Briggs, FCOA board members Heidi Siegrist, Mina Femino, Willie Wickman, Sue Barber, Hank Fitek, Barbara Cerva. Observer Anu Pirn, FiveSparks director Nicole Schmidt.
Absent: Carol Lee Tonge

The joint meeting was convened at 3 p.m.

The minutes of the April 16, 2019 board meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report - Bruce Dolimount

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving funds	\$ 8,468.85
MART payroll	7,480.20
Payroll	26,325.45
Gift account	97,286.61 (-\$7,000 transfer to FCOA for van)
Formula Grant	3,926.95*

*Debbie plans to use the Formula Grant balance to buy a new copy machine.

Director's Report

The outreach department worked with 55 individuals in the past month, and added four new cases.

Debbie has been doing annual reviews for COA staff, which are due by the end of May. The staff will get a 2.2 percent pay increase across the board, with a possible 1.5 percent added if they are approved for a merit increase. Town Administrator Tim Bragan will do Debbie's review.

Three new van drivers have finished training and will start driving soon, joining David, Jeanell, and Pete on the COA roster. They will drive both the MART van and the COA's own van when it gets on the road in July. Having the new van will allow the COA to provide transportation at night and on weekends if drivers are available.

Friends of the Council on Aging Update– Sharon Briggs, Hank Fitek

This has been a record fundraising year for the FCOA. In 10 months, total income stands at \$42,088.28. Total expenses are \$38,799.98, including the cost of a new van.

Hank has been working with Acton Ford to buy a like-new van (6,000 miles) for \$29,607.00, which will be retrofitted to be wheelchair accessible at a facility in Attleboro. The van should be ready for delivery in early July, possibly in time to make an appearance in the July 4 parade.

Housing @ Hildreth– Carl Sciple

Two developers have agreed to meet with the Housing @Hildreth Committee June 10 and July 1 to say what they think would work on the site. Since it appears that single-family cottages are not financially feasible, the committee wants to hear from seniors about their preferences - whether they would like apartment-style condos, townhouses, one- or two-level living, one-or two-bedroom apartments, amount of living space(e.g.1200SF), a garage for parking a car. Debbie has agreed to distribute a questionnaire, either in the newsletter or by an email blast, if the committee comes up with one.

Program Committee – Deb Thomson

COA representatives are meeting with Chris Ryan to brainstorm ideas about making Harvard an age-friendly community. Deb urged the board to think about ways to inform people about the possibilities through COA programs. Heidi Siegrist urged the board to have more intergenerational programs to inform all age groups, with a goal of building townwide connections.

Buildings and Grounds – Bruce Dolimount

The mens' coffee group wants to build a bocce ball court behind Hildreth House. DPW Director Tim Kilhart will determine the best place for it.

Bruce and Karen Dolimount are organizing an effort to hang artwork at Hildreth House on a rotating basis.

Heidi Siegrist presented Debbie with a gift from the Woman's Club – a framed poster of birds one might see in this area and a large-print book about the birds. The waterproofed poster could be displayed outside so people could identify birds they see from the porch.

Connie asked Bruce to add the porch columns to the list of things that need attention. Some of the columns were found to be rotted during Phase 1 porch renovations; the rotted columns were repaired and reinforced but the contractors advised reinforcing all of the columns, which support the porch roof. When the town's new building maintenance director is hired, the columns should be added to the to-do list.

Hildreth House Phase 2 – Guy Oliva

The Permanent Building Committee was not satisfied with DAI architects' contract proposal and sent it back with a list of requests. A response from DAI is expected by the committee's May 28 meeting. COA board members were frustrated by the delay in getting the architects working on the Phase 2 redesign, and increasingly concerned that the new design and cost estimates will not be ready in time for the submission of FY 2021 capital requests in late September/early October.

Hildreth to Hildreth - Beth Williams

Board members had a lengthy discussion about the planned joint fundraising effort to benefit both the new Hildreth Elementary School and Hildreth House. Beth explained that funds raised for Hildreth House would be useful whether or not voters approve the Phase 2 expansion project.

New Business

With the resignation of Victoria Hayao this month, the COA board has a vacancy. Fran Maiore and Cathy Walker have agreed to serve another term on the board.

Five Sparks executive director Nicole Schmidt gave an update on the organization's plans when the renovated old library building opens this summer. She said the goal is to provide afterschool programs for kids, and a range of cultural programs for adults, including seniors. The June COA

newsletter will contain a link to a FiveSparks survey to determine what programs and activities seniors would like to see.

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

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 4 p.m. at Hildreth House.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder
