

Harvard Council on Aging  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
Hildreth House

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

The meeting was convened at 4:00 p.m.

The minutes of the October 15, 2019 board meeting were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report - Bruce Dolimount**

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving Funds	\$ 8,410.65
MART	\$28,943.75
Payroll	\$ 94,555.83
Gift account	\$ 90,214.95 (\$7,000 reserved for kitchen)
Formula grant	(grant not received yet)
New van costs	\$22,686.45

**Director's Report - Debbie Thompson**

The outreach department worked with 70 people this month, 14 of whom were under the age of 60. The COA is the town's only human service department, so it serves the entire community, not just seniors.

As it has for several years now, the outreach team is organizing delivery of buckets of sand to seniors before winter sets in. DPW workers have filled the buckets, which will be delivered by Bromfield students. We are looking for people to plow and/or shovel snow for frail seniors and who might offer a senior discount.

We served 89 meals at the annual Thanksgiving dinner at St. Theresa's on Nov. 14. Bob's Turkey Farm provided the basics, and local chef Bill Ference added the side dishes. It took two days to pack up and transport all the utensils and other equipment required to serve so many people.

On the day before Thanksgiving, Girl Scouts will help pack and deliver full turkey dinners to 16-18 seniors who are either homebound or who have no family in the area.

Volunteers are needed for the holiday party at St. Theresa's on Thursday, Dec. 19. Chef Paul will cook the meal.

The COA will be closed Dec. 25-27 for our holiday break.

#### **COMING EVENTS:**

Wednesday, Dec. 4 Girl Scout tea, St. Theresa's

Friday, Dec. 6 Shopping at Merrimack outlets

Tuesday, Dec. 10 Fraud prevention talk 10 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19 Holiday party at St. Theresa's

#### **Public Comment:**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **Phase 2 Hildreth House:**

After a brief discussion, the board unanimously voted to take a position on the Select Board proposal to get cost estimates for building an enclosed heated connector between Hildreth House and the proposed new Phase 2 addition; installing a sprinkler system at Hildreth House; and doing what's required to meet seismic code regulations. Board members agreed on a statement supporting the COA's current \$4.3M Phase 2 proposal (without the connector), but also said it would be useful to know what the cost estimate would be. The board further agreed that if the Select Board decides to put an article on the Town Meeting warrant requesting funding for the connector and Hildreth House upgrades, it should be a separate article, not attached to the COA request submitted in October.

#### **Friends of the Council on Aging**

The FCOA will start advertising for its First Night celebration soon after Thanksgiving, and wants to include some information about Phase 2 in the invitations. Cathy Walker will draft the wording.

#### **Housing Update – Carl Sciple**

The Housing@ Hildreth project has come to a standstill. Chair Rick  
Maione was expected to give a final report to the Select Board Nov. 19.

**Program Committee** – Carol Lee Tonge

The committee will begin working on programs in January. Suggestions  
include a repeat of the Real ID license program, and presentations by  
state Senator Jamie Eldridge, Representative Jen Benson, and US  
Representative Lori Trahan about legislation of particular interest to  
seniors.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for  
Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder

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