

Harvard Council on Aging  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020  
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present: Beth Williams, Chet Hooper, Fran Maiore, Guy Oliva, Carl Sciple, Cathy Walker, COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee

Select Board liaison Lucy Wallace, FCOA members Sharon Briggs and Barbara Cerva, prospective board member Kim Schwarz

Absent: Bruce Dolimount, Lynne Musto-Pesa, Carol Lee Tonge

The meeting was convened at 4:01 p.m.

The minutes of the May 19, 2020 board meeting were approved as written.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving Funds	\$ 6,259.67
MART	\$12,166.85
Payroll	\$ 21,236.81
Gift account	\$ 86,142.65 (\$7,000 reserved for kitchen)
Formula grant	\$ 145.42
New van costs	\$14,521.34

Debbie said the account balances continue to be affected by the COVID-19 shutdown of Hildreth House. The staff has been working from home on a rotating schedule, and can't make home visits, which affects the payroll account. The MART van is used less often, as is the COA van, both of which are used only for medical appointments and food deliveries. Debbie has been spending down the Formula Grant on supplies and on the weekly grab & go meals program for seniors in May.

### **Director's Report – Debbie Thompson**

The Friends of the COA Phase 2 brochure will be mailed to every home this week and Debbie has written a Consider This column for the Press.

Both COA vans will be available to take people to Town Meeting Saturday and to the polls on Tuesday. The van can pick people up at home or shuttle them from parked cars at Hildreth House. The forecast is for hot weather so meeting-goers should be sure to bring water and wear something cool and comfortable. The hot weather might be another factor discouraging older people from turning out because heat is especially dangerous for them.

State guidelines are being developed for senior center reopening, and are likely to require social distancing for some time. Debbie took a measuring tape and determined that if 6 feet is the required separation between people, the Hildreth House dining room would accommodate only 4-6 people and only 15-18 would fit on the porch.

Knowing the importance of socialization for older people, the outreach workers will be sensitive to signs of depression. Beth said it will be difficult telling people they might not be able to enjoy being together at Hildreth House meals and programs for quite some time. It hasn't been possible to have home visits since March, but in warmer weather it could be done if people have porches or outside seating.

Guy asked if Debbie knows of seniors who don't have computers, and Debbie said she knows a number who don't have internet access.

The COA internet is now fixed! Workmen trimmed some tree limbs, replaced damaged wires, and covered parts of the cable with protective casing. The Finance Committee approved a Reserve Fund transfer to pay for the repairs. The workmen said squirrels have been chewing all the wires up near the trees - phone and electrical wires as well as the internet cable.

## **Phase 2**

There was a brief discussion about Town Meeting logistics. Lucy said she will probably read the Phase 2 article while Debbie and Beth will be there to speak about the need and Guy will answer questions about the design.

COMING EVENTS (all events held via Zoom)

Wednesday, June 17 Downsizing with Marie LeBlanc 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 20 Spring Town Meeting 10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 23 Town Election

In July we are hoping to offer another relaxation yoga class and more Zoom programs. A story slam will be held every second Tuesday, and the Veterans Café is starting up again.

Although Hildreth House is closed to the public for now, at least one staff member is there every day. Debbie comes in Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Charlotte is in Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Lisa is in every day, but works part-time from home on Fridays. Maria and Jennifer work mostly from home.

## **Public Comment:**

There were no comments from the public

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

Barbara Cerva reminded the board that Amazon members can designate the FCOA as a charity to receive 5% of every purchase amount. The program – Amazon Smile - is already set up, and Debbie will put a reminder in the newsletter.

## **New Board member**

The board voted unanimously to recommend Kim Schwarz for membership and will forward its recommendation to the Select Board, which is expected to vote on Kim's appointment at its June 16 meeting. There is still one vacancy to be filled.

## **Summer meetings**

The board voted to hold a meeting in July and to schedule its annual planning meeting for some time in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at a time to be determined.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder

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