

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Present: Deb Thomson, Hank Fitek, Beth Williams, Victoria Hayao, Bruce Dolimount, Sue Guswa
Absent: Fran Maiore, Katie Petrossi
COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee, selectmen liaison Lucy Wallace, Friends of the Council on Aging representative Sharon Briggs
Guests: Carol Lee Tonge, Susan Ostberg

The meeting was convened at 4:05 p.m. at Hildreth House

The minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving Funds	\$ 8,350.17
MART	13,025.26
Payroll	30,369.35
Gift account	41,026.58
Formula grant	5,687.15

Director's Report

The annual volunteer appreciation luncheon will be held April 28 at noon.

There has been no further word on the possibility of getting an additional MART van that could be used for both a commuter shuttle and regular COA activities. The Planning Board has asked town planner Bill Scanlan to research the issue. Board members agreed that using the COA van for the shuttle is not an acceptable option.

The outreach department has been working on a number of serious situations. One long-time resident has been placed in an assisted living facility and is doing well there. In two other cases, a geriatric care manager has been recommended to help the individuals remain safely at home.

The outreach workers have started a monthly drop-in program for bereaved residents or others suffering loss of some kind. A new program of birthday visits has introduced a number of people to COA services.

On May 11 there will be a light supper as a kickoff event for a new intergenerational group.

Phase 2 Advocacy

The board discussed Phase 2 strategy, including whether to renew our request for consideration in fiscal 2019 (next year), rather than 2021. Connie suggested two changes to the existing Phase 2 plan: eliminating the driveway and turnaround on the east side of the building and adding porch and column repair. At Lucy's suggestion, the board voted unanimously to request up to \$15,000 at the June Special Town Meeting for a revised Phase 2 cost estimate, taking those changes into account. The money would come from the \$1.67 million in free cash that will be allocated at that meeting. Beth Williams and Sue Guswa will draft an article to be submitted to the town administrator.

Housing@Hildreth House Update

Hank and Sue reported that the committee is working hard on a preliminary site plan for up to 18 single-family and duplex housing units. Sue said the goal is to have preliminary site plan approval to make the project more appealing to a developer.

Older Americans Month

The board voted unanimously to authorize Deb to write a proclamation recognizing Older Americans Month to be delivered at the selectmen's April 24 meeting.

New COA board members

The board welcomed prospective new board members Carol Lee Tonge and Susan Ostberg. Susan is an attorney and community mediator who has lived in town for 32 years. Carol Lee has had a multifaceted career and now devotes herself to volunteer work. She is active in the Lions Club and works with Camp Sunshine, a camp for children with terminal illnesses. Carol Lee has agreed to serve on the board and will go to the April 24 selectmen's meeting for appointment. She will replace Pam Frederick, who resigned last fall and whose term expires at the end of June.

Susan is considering joining the board; she would replace Katie Petrossi, whose term also ends in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee
