

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Present: Bruce Dolimount, Hank Fitek, Sue Guswa, Victoria Hayao, Fran Maiore, Carl Sciple, Carol Lee Tonge, Beth Williams

Absent: Deb Thomson

COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee, Friends of the Council on Aging representative Sharon Briggs

Guest: Mary Maxwell

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

The minutes of the September 19 board meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

The FY18 account balances are not up to date yet. The partial numbers are:

Revolving Funds \$ 8,145.84

MART -----

Payroll -----

Gift account 42,335.72

Formula grant -----

Director's Report

The outreach department worked with 25 seniors in the past month, making 35 contacts with them overall. Case management with these clients can include house visits as well as phone calls.

Recent Internet issues are slowly being resolved. Reception is very weak in the outreach office, requiring use of a hot spot.

Debbie and Charlotte Winchell are attending the three-day Massachusetts Councils on Aging conference in Danvers this month, Debbie for two days and Charlotte for one.

Friends of the Council on Aging – Sharon Briggs

For its annual fundraising appeal this year, the FCOA will send the November COA newsletter to every household in town, with a donation envelope enclosed.

The FCOA wants to partner with the COA board on programs this year, including a possible repeat of the rock n' roll dance party we had a couple of years ago. Sharon suggested that the Lions Club might be willing to help with it, too.

The FCOA is reluctant to pay for supplemental cleaning services at Hildreth House on the grounds that adequate building maintenance is the town's responsibility. But Town Administrator Tim Bragan has informed Debbie that she cannot ask for additional funding for cleaning because the town provides regular custodial services.

Bruce suggested trying to get people or organizations to sponsor periodic cleaning.

Housing@ Hildreth – Sue Guswa, Hank Fitek

Hank reported that only one developer bid on the project and the bid was rejected. The law requires that the land can't be sold for less than its \$1.2 million appraised value, and the bid was about half that. The committee intends to issue a new request for proposals, targeting developers who specialize in such projects. And there will still be an article at the November 6 Special Town Meeting asking voters to approve the sale of the land.

Carl suggested that board members could alert developers and realtors they know who might be interested in this project.

At the last meeting Sue suggested four talking points in support of the project:

1. It addresses a critical need for many elder residents who want to stay in town
2. The 17 units will provide needed tax revenue
3. The residents are unlikely to have school-age children so will have minimal impact on town services
4. Revenue from sale of the property can help fund Hildreth House improvements.

She will send an updated list of talking points to the board.

Capital Committee applications

The Capital Planning and Investment Committee reviewed the COA's two applications and sent a list of nine questions, which the COA responded to at CPIC's October 16 meeting. The selectmen reviewed the applications at their October 17 meeting. CPIC is expected to decide on its recommendations by early December.

Buildings and Grounds – Bruce Dolimount

The old bricks from the patio are still stacked up in back. Hank and Bruce are looking for ideas about how to use them.

Debbie reported that the DPW has carpet-cleaning equipment and could eventually do the job. But she's been told that the building maintenance budget is already depleted so there will be no money available until July.

Bruce suggested sending a letter to Tim Kilhart thanking him for his prompt attention to several maintenance problems so far, with copies to the selectmen and to the newspaper.

New Business

Bruce suggested developing a list of preferred contractors that seniors could call on at a reduced rate. Debbie said the outreach department already has a list and can give seniors three names of contractors that have had CORI checks. There is also a short list of volunteer handymen who can help with

small jobs like changing lightbulbs or installing window air-conditioners. Bruce and Hank will ask the men's coffee group if anyone there could help with small projects.

The film company Castle Rock has donated \$500 to the FCOA, and \$500 to the veterans memorial fund. The company spent several days filming in town for a new TV series.

On November 20, the Parks and Recreation Commission will be talking about making more spaces for canoes and kayaks. Fran and Sue will attend the meeting to represent seniors' interests.

A Bromfield senior is making promotional videos for the COA as his senior project. One video is a 30-second spot, and the other is three or four minutes long. After viewing the video, board members agreed it would be good to include more COA activities. Debbie will see if that's possible.

Sue Guswa will be moving to Northampton in the spring. She will serve on the board until the end of the calendar year.

Flea Market Recap

The COA table had a lot of visitors and gave out literature, cookies, and cider, along with providing a couple of chairs for tired shoppers. The donation jar collected about \$30, which will go into the gift account. The board agreed that next year we should have more chairs, and also a canopy.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder
