

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2015

Present: Sue Guswa,, Connie Larrabee, Bruce Dolimount, Hank Fitek, Fran Nickerson, Carlene Phillips,, Pam Frederick, Suzanne Roberts, Katie Petrossi
Selectman Ken Swanton, COA Director Debbie Thompson
Claudia Jarratt, FCOA

The minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The second half of the state Formula Grant has not been received so a \$3,029.40 check is still to come. Otherwise, the budget is on track.

Building Project update:

The Hildreth House sewer connection will be done in May or June. Some ledge removal will be required, which could be helpful in putting in new handicap parking spots near the ramp.

The board reviewed the text of an informational flyer to be distributed at upcoming events.

Program Committee:

The next program in the Networks for Connecting and Well-being series will be Meals with Memories on February 26 at Hildreth House. Participants will be invited to bring a dish and tell stories about the memories attached to the meal.

Due to the snowstorm gathering strength outside, the Housing Committee and Minuteman senior services reports were postponed to the February meeting. Hank Fitek, the board's Minuteman representative, urged members to call the governor's office (617-725-4005) to ask that funding for senior centers not be cut.

Director's Report:

The Finance Committee will consider the COA request for another 19-hour-a-week outreach coordinator on January 28. The cost to the town would be \$20,026. The Personnel Board has refused the COA request to upgrade the position of receptionist-MART dispatcher to more accurately reflect the job's responsibilities.

Plans for a monthly COA show on cable TV are progressing. Programming could begin in March.

The number of outreach cases continues to grow and to consume more outreach hours than are currently budgeted.

The COA has a Facebook page, which will be useful in getting information to the public. Katie suggested that the board should develop a protocol for its use. The formation of the public relations committee will be on the February agenda.

FCOA Report: Sharon asked if the COA could develop a budget for informational materials before the FCOA's February 9 meeting. The Friends will be paying printing

costs. For now, the board agreed to print 40-50 copies of the flyer for the FCOA annual meeting February 5. That printing will be done in-house.

MRPC Block Grant:

After a brief discussion about whether to pursue MRPC funds for access improvements at Hildreth House, most board members favored applying for some portion of the available funds if possible. Ken Swanton is researching the process for accessing the funds. Debbie Thompson will seek input from Lorraine Leonard about the possibility of splitting the funds between home improvements and accessibility at Hildreth House. The board will discuss it again at its February meeting.

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Frederick and Connie Larrabee