

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

Present: Fran Maiore, Guy Oliva, Carl Sciple, Deb Thomson, Carol Lee Tonge, Cathy Walker, Beth Williams, COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee  
Minuteman representative Pam Frederick, FCOA Treasurer Sharon Briggs, Select Board liaison Lucy Wallace  
Absent: Bruce Dolimount, Victoria Hayao  
Guests: Anton Watson(AARP); Chris Ryan, director of community and economic development; Josh Bedarian (Rep. Jen Benson's office); Planning Board Chair Erin McBee; Asst. Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro; Concord COA Director Ginger Quarles; Hank Fitek, Sue Barber, Rosemary Theriault, Anu Pirn, Barbara Cerva

The meeting was convened at 4 p.m.

**Age-Friendly Designation**

In front of a large, appreciative audience, AARP representative Antron Watson presented a certificate designating Harvard as an AARP Age-Friendly community. Watson said Harvard is the 328<sup>th</sup> community across the country to join this network, which helps forge connections to grants and other resources. Director of Community and Economic Development Chris Ryan led the effort to gain Harvard's certification, and urged residents to call him if they have an idea for a project to benefit seniors.

The minutes of the February 19, 2019 board meeting were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report** - Bruce Dolimount

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving funds	\$ 8,738.81
MART payroll	14,903.30
Payroll	54,845.23
Gift account	97,344.73

Formula Grant

6,839.43 (\$11,946.35 total grant received)

### **Director's Report**

The outreach department worked with 57 individuals in the past month, including four new cases. Maria and Charlotte are working hard to reach seniors they have not already met, or who have not yet participated in COA programs and services.

At Town Administrator Tim Bragan's request, Debbie is working with Cathy Walker to put together a spreadsheet of MART invoices and payments in the past few years. MART is charging the town for training, drug testing, and van maintenance, which could be done locally, possibly for less money. The new van drivers are working out well, and the FCOA project to purchase a second van is gaining traction. The new van will be wheelchair-accessible, which would allow two wheelchair-dependent riders to be transported at the same time.

### **Friends of the Council on Aging – Sharon Briggs**

The FCOA is working on the van project and has received \$14,200 in donations so far. They want to raise \$20,000, which they will match. The Friends are sending out letters to businesses and organizations explaining the project and asking for support. The group also plans to hold an annual meeting sometimes after Annual Town Meeting in May to highlight the project and the Age-Friendly Community designation.

Hank Fitek said he thinks the FCOA can purchase a used low-mileage van for a little over \$50,000, including retrofitting to accommodate a wheelchair.

### **Van Purchase – Marie Sobalvarro**

Marie appeared briefly to explain how the van purchasing project will work, but she left before answering questions that arose later. She said the van can't be purchased through the town's procurement process, which would be cheaper and easier than having the FCOA buy it. At least one member of the audience questioned that assertion, and Debbie said she would seek further clarification.

**Housing @ Hildreth**– Carl Sciple

The Housing @ Hildreth Committee is putting together an RFI to determine developers' interest in the project. The idea is to find out what local developers think of the proposed development before issuing a request for proposals(RFP). The committee's current vision is for 16 to 18 units of moderate-income housing, 75 percent of which would have two bedrooms. The units would have 1,200 square feet of living space and a one-car garage. The question of connecting these units to the town's water and sewer system is still unsettled.

**Program Committee** – Deb Thomson

Deb suggested having a program about the town's age-friendly initiative, possibly with Chris Ryan and Antron Watson as speakers.

**Hildreth House Phase 2** – Guy Oliva

Four architectural firms have submitted proposals for the Phase 2 redesign. The Permanent Building Committee was scheduled to interview the architects Wednesday morning, March 20.

**Minuteman Senior Services** – Pam Frederick

The Minuteman board meeting in March was a legislative breakfast and panel discussion about the growing need for dementia-related services. In particular, it's important for all town employees to be trained in recognizing and interacting with people with dementia.

Pam included in her report an update on high-priority state legislation endorsed by Mass Home Care, an advocacy organization for elders. The bills would improve access to, and the affordability of, home-care services for older adults and disabled individuals, and promote better pay for home care workers.

Pam will be stepping down as Harvard's representative to the Minuteman board next fall. She urged board members and those in the audience to consider taking her place, calling it "a very rewarding experience."

**Hildreth to Hildreth:** Beth Williams

Hoping to avoid competing fundraising efforts in town next year, an advisory committee is working on starting a joint fundraising effort to benefit both the new Hildreth Elementary School and the Hildreth House

Phase 2 renovations – a sort of “community chest” campaign. Beth learned of the effort and attended a meeting of the group, which is in its formative stages. Board members had many questions about this idea and agreed the board should discuss it later when more details are available. Lucy warned that such a group would have to keep careful records about donors’ intentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder

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