

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
Hildreth House

Present: Bruce Dolimount, Victoria Hayao, Fran Maiore, Guy Oliva, Carl Sciple, Deb Thomson, Cathy Walker, Beth Williams, COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee
Minuteman representative Pam Frederick, FCOA Treasurer Sharon Briggs
Absent: Carol Lee Tonge

The meeting was convened at 4 p.m.

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

Treasurer's Report - Bruce Dolimount

As of April 1, the account balances are as follows:

Revolving funds	\$ 8,507.35
MART payroll	12,808.62
Payroll	45,218.39
Gift account	97,236.61
Formula Grant	6,383.94

Of the gift account, about \$10,000 was donated for a specific purpose: \$6k for transportation and \$4k for kitchen equipment.

When a draft of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting warrant was released at the March department head meeting, Debbie discovered that \$59,371.79 of the appropriation for Phase 1 construction had not been spent. Article 9 of the warrant would transfer that money to the Old Library accessibility project.

Board members were surprised to learn there was any surplus from the Phase 1 project. Had the COA been aware of the surplus, it could have been used for new flooring in the kitchen or reinforcement of porch columns, both of which could qualify as Phase 1 improvements.

Director's Report

The outreach department worked with 45 individuals in the past month. Debbie has heard from five new potential van drivers – two men and three women – and thinks at least two are real possibilities. Some women who express interest are only available when their children are in school, which limits their usefulness.

Friends of the Council on Aging – Sharon Briggs

The FCOA is still fundraising for the van and has \$45,000 designated for the purchase so far.

The next FCOA fundraiser is a performance by musician Donal Clancy on May 10 at the Unitarian Church. Advance tickets are \$20; \$18 for people age 65 and older.

There will be a joint COA/FCOA meeting Tuesday, May 21 at 3 p.m., followed by a regular COA board meeting.

Housing @ Hildreth– Carl Sciple

In response to the Housing @ Hildreth Committee's "request for interest," several firms have expressed interest in the proposed senior housing development, but nothing more has materialized. The question of connecting these units to the town's water and sewer system is still unsettled.

Program Committee – Deb Thomson

Deb is looking for direction from the board in developing programs. Although the COA has co-sponsored several well-received programs in recent months, Deb thinks the committee needs to be more active in the process.

Buildings and Grounds – Bruce Dolimount

The DPW has done some grounds clean-up at Hildreth House – picking up branches and sweeping. DPW Director Tim Kilhart has been very responsive, but says the DPW has run out of money for any major repairs.

Hildreth House Phase 2 – Guy Oliva

After interviewing four architectural firms that submitted proposals for the Phase 2 redesign, the Permanent Building Committee has chosen DiGiorgio Associates Inc. of Boston. Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro is checking the firm's references, after which she will negotiate a contract with the architects.

Board members expressed concern that time is growing short to develop a new schematic design and obtain cost estimates before early fall, when fiscal 2021 capital requests must be submitted to the Capital Planning and Investment Committee.

Minuteman Senior Services – Pam Frederick

The town of Maynard presented its report to the Minuteman board this month. One item of interest: Maynard and Acton are collaborating on a shuttle service between the two towns. Debbie had questions about the shuttle service but Pam had no further details.

Minuteman has compiled a list of ways in which board members can support the COA, the COA can support board members, and the board can support any event or activity. Pam will send the list to Beth and Debbie for distribution to the board.

Beth reminded the board that Pam plans to step down as Harvard's Minuteman representative, and we're looking for a replacement.

Hildreth to Hildreth - Beth Williams

Beth generated a list of items, such as furniture and equipment, that could be funded by a proposed joint fundraising effort to benefit both the new elementary school and Hildreth House Phase 2. An advisory group is investigating the feasibility of such an effort.

New Business

Deb Thomson asked how the COA could recognize Older Americans Month in May. Suggestions included putting something in the newsletter and writing a letter to the Press.

Deb also reminded the board that Director of Community and Economic Development Chris Ryan is putting a group together to work on age-friendly issues. Ryan is looking at housing and transportation, and is open to further suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 3 p.m., the first part of which will be a joint meeting with the FCOA.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder
