

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Hildreth House

Present: Beth Williams, Bruce Dolimount, Carl Sciple, Carol Lee Tonge, Cathy Walker, Chet Hooper, Fran Maiore, Guy Oliva, Lynne Musto-Pesa, COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee, FCOA members Hank Fitek and Sharon Briggs, Select Board liaison Lucy Wallace

The meeting was convened at 4 p.m.

The minutes of the December 20, 2019 board meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report - Bruce Dolimount

The account balances are as follows:

Revolving Funds	\$ 8,157.73
MART	\$22,886.80
Payroll	\$ 70,581.12
Gift account	\$ 88,697.33 (\$7,000 reserved for kitchen)
Formula grant	\$ 9,120.00
New van costs	\$19,044.13

Director's Report - Debbie Thompson

Since the beginning of the month/year the outreach department has worked with 41 individuals, mostly by phone, but also in home visits to seniors most in need.

Outreach has set up programs on "winter blues" and help for those with hearing loss. The programs will be held in February and are expected to be well-attended.

A few Bromfield juniors have already signed up to do their senior community service projects with the COA. One student plans to interview seniors about what it was like growing up in

the 1940s in Harvard and elsewhere, and will put the stories together in a “bringing history to life” project.

A Girl Scout troop will be joining our fiber arts group two Thursdays in February to share experiences and pick up some knitting tips.

The state Formula Grant has been received and about 30 % of it has been spent.

The COA submission to the 2019 Town Report is ready to submit; it is due at the end of January.

Charlotte and Lisa will be out for school vacation week (2/17 - 2/21)

COMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, Jan. 22 Lunch at J’s Restaurant (Nashoba Winery)

Monday, Jan. 27 Cooking with Anton, 11 a.m. Hildreth House

Tuesday, Feb. 4 Story Slam

Tuesday, Feb. 11 Vet Café 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 11 “Winter Blues,” w/ Lucia Camara, Nashoba Nursing

Tuesday, Feb. 18 Caption Call program for the hearing impaired, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 19 Trip to Arts League of Lowell, 10:30 a.m.

There won’t be a special Valentines Day lunch Feb. 13 but there will be flowers and a special dessert.

Public Comment:

There were no comments from the public.

Phase 2 Hildreth House – Guy Oliva

The Capital Planning and Investment Committee voted 3-2 to recommend the Phase 2 project. The Finance Committee has reviewed the request but hasn’t made its recommendation yet. Lucy assured the board that Phase 2 will be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in May.

Architect Tom Lam sent drawings of the proposed connector between Hildreth House and the new addition. The estimated cost of the connector and associated upgrades at Hildreth

House is roughly \$500,000. Lucy said she isn't sure if the Select Board will continue to push for the connector.

Friends of the Council on Aging – Sharon Briggs

This year's First Night celebration went well but was not as well-attended as last year's event. The final report is not finished but the committee is already planning for next year. The Friends have close to \$70,000 on hand and plan to do a spring fundraising appeal in conjunction with getting the word out about Phase 2.

Sharon said it would be helpful for the COA to do a budget formalizing what it needs from the FCOA.

Housing – Carl Sciple

The Housing @ Hildreth Committee has given its final report to the Select Board and is no longer meeting. Lucy said the idea now is work with the Planning Board and the Affordable Housing Trust to identify other sites for senior housing in town.

Programs – Carol Lee Tonge

A number of program ideas are under consideration, but the only firm date is April 1, when the COA will sponsor a Clutter Control program in upper Town Hall. Other possible programs include planning for pet care if you are incapacitated, and the pros and cons of reverse mortgages.

Buildings and Grounds – Bruce Dolimount

There's been no progress on the Hildreth House sign this month but Bruce promised it will be done before his term is up in June. Meanwhile, it's not clear what happened to the bracket that attached the sign to the tree near the end of the driveway.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder
