

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2021
Via Zoom Conference

Present: Beth Williams, Guy Oliva, Kim Schwarz, Carl Sciple, Fran Maiore, Cathy Walker, Nancy Webber, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee
FCOA member Barbara Cerva, co-Chair Sharon Briggs
Absent: Chet Hooper, Lynne Musto-Pesa

The meeting was convened at 4:01 p.m.

The minutes of the April 20, 2021 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Account balances as of 5/3/2021 – per MUNIS report

COA Salary	\$48,826	(Annual Budget: \$163,019)
COA Expense	8,936	(Annual Budget: 10,547)
MART Salary	14,763	(Annual Budget: 35,108)
MART Expense	444	(Annual Budget 1,000)
Gift account	85,517	(\$7,000 reserved for kitchen)
Formula Grant	7,051	
Revolving Funds	7,176	

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, spending continues to be much lower than normal. COA salary and expense balances at the end of the fiscal year June 30 will go back to the town into next year's free cash. MART salary and expense balances cannot be rolled over but the expense amount can be used for MART-related items. Debbie will stock up on supplies as much as possible to use up the expense balances

Director's Report – Debbie Thompson

Outreach

The outreach coordinators are beginning to be able to make home visits. Last month they worked with 91 clients – still mostly by phone - and with a couple of families who need help dealing with aging issues. Starting May 29, fully vaccinated people can meet without a mask statewide, but it's not clear when mask and distancing requirements will be relaxed in Harvard. Most seniors in town have been vaccinated and it's acceptable to ask if a person has been vaccinated if they appear without a mask in a public venue. A few volunteer drivers have said they do not want to transport anyone who is not fully vaccinated. The Board of Health has given its approval to begin offering larger group activities in June, so we can plan a celebration of life in July honoring those we have lost during the past year.

Vaccines

The Nashoba Valley Regional Collaborative has begun holding vaccination clinics at Clear Path for Veterans in Devens. The clinics will offer vaccines to walk-ins as well as scheduled appointments.

Programs

We will offer a luncheon June 11 at noon for those over 55 who are still in the workforce and have been working from home. Sean from Connections PT will talk about how to protect our spines when we're spending so much time in front of a computer.

Social Day Care

Debbie and Beth spoke with a woman who is starting a social day care program on Lancaster County Road this summer. It will be a fee-based program offering trips, programs, and other services for seniors. Options include a half-day program with breakfast and lunch, or full-day adult care. Some of the offerings duplicate activities the COA already provides, but there could be opportunities for cooperation.

COMING EVENTS (On Zoom unless otherwise noted)

Wed., May 19 Pilates class 2 p.m.
Mon., May 24 Podiatry clinic in the building 9-11:30 a.m.
Wed., May 26 Pilates class 2 p.m.
Wed., May 26 Hip-hop dance class on the porch 3 p.m.
Thurs., May 27 Story Slam – Harvard Press 1 p.m.
Tues., June 1 Card Creations (Zoom) 1 p.m.
Tues., June 8 Veterans Café 9 a.m.
Fri., June 11 Re-engaging the at-home workforce noon
Wed., June 16 Ice Cream Social on the porch 3-4 p.m.
Wed., June 23 RiverCourt luncheon

Phase 2 alternative

The board continued last month's discussion about the frustrating delay in moving the project forward. Members are worried that the preferred building on Lancaster County Road could be sold or leased to someone else while the public procurement process and deliberations of the Permanent Building Committee slow progress to a crawl. Guy said he thinks the building's owner wants to work with the town and understands how the process works.

Now that Town Meeting has approved \$45,000 for an architect to determine how the COA's needs could be met in an alternative building, choosing an architect through the public procurement process appears to be the next step.

Guy has asked to be on the agenda at the Permanent Building Committee's next meeting to help move the process along.

Friends of the Council on Aging

Hank Fitek and Carl Sciple erected a small tent shelter next to the Hildreth House porch to provide additional space for outdoor gatherings. The FCOA paid for the tent.

New Business

The board will need an interim chair after Beth leaves in June until new officers are elected at the annual planning meeting in August. Nobody volunteered so Beth said she would ask Chet Hooper if he'd be able to fill in.

The board voted unanimously to hold the June meeting via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder