**HILDRETH HOUSE SURVEY 2016/17**

**March 2, 2017**

Results analyzed by Katie Petrossi, PhD in Gerontology, on behalf of COA

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| **Summary:** There are over 46 million older adults in the US, and that number is expected to double by 2060. The much-anticipated graying of America is upon us, and the reality of 10,000 people turning 65 each day will continue for decades. Aging is a complex, multi-faceted issue with much interplay between individuals, their environments, and our society. With less than 5% of older adults residing in nursing homes, towns across America are tasked with helping their older citizens to age in place (in their communities). Between November 2016 and January 2017, 287 Harvard residents took the Council on Aging (COA) survey. Responders were mostly in their 60s and 70s, female, living with a spouse, active drivers, and have lived in Harvard for more than 20 years. With 63% of responders intending to stay in Harvard as they age and 90% saying an active COA is important, town officials need to support and prioritize the functions of the Council on Aging, Harvard’s only dedicated agency meetings elder needs.  While COA can do nothing to address elder concerns such as proximity to family and climate, it can work within the network of town factors otherwise impacting them. Taxes, housing, and town amenities are among these and create opportunities for COA advocacy. Senior center program offerings at Hildreth House, the building’s comfort and safety, and transportation services fall under the purview of COA, and these remain our focus. In addition to the strategic goals outlined in COA’s August 2016 planning meeting, the survey suggests we should prioritize marketing Phase 1 safety and comfort improvements and continue increasing evening programming and topics relevant to younger seniors, intergenerational programming, and grand-parenting issues.  Support is strong for building an addition onto the Hildreth House (often referred to as “Phase 2”). Overall, 78% of survey respondents support the proposed Phase 2 addition of a dining room, multi-purpose room, handicap accessible kitchen, and additional restrooms. The more frequently seniors use COA services, the more likely they are to support improving Hildreth House. Among those who responded that property taxes were a factor in potentially leaving Harvard, the majority were still in favor of Phase 2. |
| **How long have you lived in Harvard?** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| <1 years | 2.1% | 6 |
| 1 - 5 years | 5.3% | 15 |
| 6 - 10 years | 5.3% | 15 |
| 11 - 15 years | 10.2% | 29 |
| 16 - 20 years | 10.2% | 29 |
| Greater than 20 years | 66.9% | 190 |
| ***answered question*** | **284** |
| ***skipped question*** | **3** |

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| **What is your age?** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Under 60 years | 6.3% | 18 |
| 60 - 69 years | 37.4% | 107 |
| 70 - 79 years | 41.6% | 119 |
| 80-89 years | 12.2% | 35 |
| 90+ years | 2.4% | 7 |
| ***answered question*** | **286** |
| ***skipped question*** | **1** |

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| **What is your gender?** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Female | 64.7% | 185 |
| Male | 35.3% | 101 |
| ***answered question*** | **286** |
| ***skipped question*** | **1** |

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| **Please indicate your total household income before taxes this past year** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Up to $20,000 | 4.3% | 12 |
| $20,000 - $39,000 | 8.3% | 23 |
| $40,000 - $75,000 | 17.4% | 48 |
| $80,000 - $100,000 | 11.6% | 32 |
| Above $100,000 | 27.5% | 76 |
| Prefer not to answer | 30.8% | 85 |
| ***answered question*** | **276** |
| ***skipped question*** | **11** |
| **I currently live:** |
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| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Alone | 19.9% | 57 |
| With a spouse or other family member | 76.7% | 220 |
| With a friend or a caretaker | 2.8% | 8 |
| In a senior living center (independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing) | 0.7% | 2 |
| ***answered question*** | **287** |
| ***skipped question*** | **0** |

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| **Do you drive?** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Yes | 96.5% | 273 |
| No | 3.5% | 10 |
| ***answered question*** | **283** |
| ***skipped question*** | **4** |

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| **Would you like to remain in Harvard as you get older?** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Yes, and I plan to do so | 62.7% | 175 |
| Yes, but I doubt I will | 27.2% | 76 |
| No | 10.0% | 28 |
| ***answered question*** | **279** |
| ***skipped question*** | **8** |

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| **If you plan to move away from Harvard, what factors influenced your decision?  Check all that apply.** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Access to health care | 11.7% | 16 |
| Inadequate senior services in Harvard | 16.1% | 22 |
| Lack of opportunities to downsize | 46.7% | 64 |
| Property taxes | 65.0% | 89 |
| Proximity to family | 34.3% | 47 |
| Other (please specify) | 41 |
| ***answered question*** | **137** |
| ***skipped question*** | **150** |

**Other:**

Lack of amenities: shopping, restaurants, drugstore, gas station 9

Lack of senior housing/higher levels of care 6

Lack of opportunity to downsize 4

Weather 5

Proximity to family 4

Home repair/maintenance costs/burden 4

Lack of transportation 3

Cost of living 2

Taxes 2

Desire to retire elsewhere 2

Town too focused on schools 1

Lack of employment for seniors 1

Uncertainty about the future 1

Increased noise & traffic in Harvard 1

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| **How important is an active Council on Aging (COA) for Harvard?** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Very important | 73.5% | 211 |
| Somewhat important | 17.1% | 49 |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 4.5% | 13 |
| Somewhat unimportant | 2.4% | 7 |
| Very unimportant | 2.4% | 7 |
| ***answered question*** | **287** |
| ***skipped question*** | **0** |

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| **How important is an active COA specifically to you?** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Very important | 37.1% | 106 |
| Somewhat important | 39.9% | 114 |
| Neither important nor unimportant | 13.3% | 38 |
| Somewhat unimportant | 4.9% | 14 |
| Very unimportant | 4.9% | 14 |
| ***answered question*** | **286** |
| ***skipped question*** | **1** |
| **How often do you participate in programs/services offered by the COA (at Hildreth House or elsewhere in the community)?** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Two or more times per week | 16.5% | 47 |
| One time per week | 9.5% | 27 |
| Once or twice a month | 18.0% | 51 |
| One or more times per year | 23.6% | 67 |
| I do not participate in COA programs/services | 32.4% | 92 |
| ***answered question*** | **284** |
| ***skipped question*** | **3** |

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| **If you have not used COA programs/services, please tell us why not.  Check all that apply.** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Not interested in the programs/services | 22.1% | 30 |
| Programs are not compatible with my schedule | 30.9% | 42 |
| I am too busy / Have no time | 47.8% | 65 |
| Transportation to/from programs is a problem | 2.2% | 3 |
| I am in poor health | 2.2% | 3 |
| I am too young for this type of center | 24.3% | 33 |
| I didn't know the senior center offered programs/services | 4.4% | 6 |
| Other (please specify) | 49 |
| ***answered question*** | **136** |
| ***skipped question*** | **151** |

Still working full time 13

Feel too young 3

Disinterested in program/service options/underestimate my needs/interests 3

Too new to town/retirement, still settling in 3

Not enough time/have other interests 3

Don’t need it yet 6

Lack of accommodation 1

Prefer mixed age gatherings/feels institutional 3

Lack of awareness 1

Obligations to family/grandchildren 4

Weather/roads 1

Fear of commitment 1

Shyness 1

HH too crowded & parking is bad 1

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| **Have you ever been reluctant to visit Hildreth House or use COA services due to (check all that apply):** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Inadequate or unsafe parking | 9.6% | 24 |
| Inadequate lighting | 4.4% | 11 |
| Crowded or congested rooms | 5.6% | 14 |
| Uncomfortable building temperatures | 1.6% | 4 |
| Lack of space in programs / frequently wait-listed | 4.0% | 10 |
| Lack of transportation | 1.6% | 4 |
| Don't know anyone at the events | 8.0% | 20 |
| Discourteous or unhelpful staff | 0.4% | 1 |
| I have not felt reluctant to visit Hildreth House | 86.0% | 215 |
| Other (please specify) | 21 |
| ***answered question*** | **250** |
| ***skipped question*** | **37** |

Lack of relevance to my life/baby boomers 3

Program timing (lack of evening events) 3

Accommodation issues 2

Poor location of senior center/too separated 2

No interest 1

Lack of time 1

Lack of substantive social services/resources 1

I’m handling my own life 1

Lack of awareness 1

Bus is uncomfortable/unsafe 1

Users are unwelcoming/cliquey 1

COA is a waste of tax money 1

COA services make taxes too high 1

Building is cold 1





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| **What is the most convenient time for you to participate in COA activities?  Check all that apply:** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Morning | 59.1% | 140 |
| Afternoon | 68.4% | 162 |
| Evening | 32.5% | 77 |
| ***answered question*** | **237** |
| ***skipped question*** | **50** |

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| **Are the existing fees for classes and programs:** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Too low | 2.8% | 6 |
| Reasonable | 94.9% | 204 |
| Too high | 2.3% | 5 |
| ***answered question*** | **215** |
| ***skipped question*** | **72** |

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| **How do you usually get to work, shopping, services, medical appointments, etc?  Check all that apply.** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| Drive myself | 95.4% | 269 |
| Get a ride from family or friends | 17.0% | 48 |
| Council on Aging / MART van | 6.0% | 17 |
| Harvard Help (Harvard's volunteer transportation) | 5.0% | 14 |
| Taxi or other paid driver | 0.0% | 0 |
| Other (please specify) | 6 |
| ***answered question*** | **282** |
| ***skipped question*** | **5** |



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| **Proposed Phase II of the Hildreth House renovation project would expand the facility to include a new dining room, multi-purpose room for fitness or craft classes, handicap-accessible kitchen, and additional restrooms.   Current estimates for this project are approximately $3 million, which would add $110-120 to the average tax bill.  Though not guaranteed, there will be efforts to raise some private funds and/or offset costs with developers.** |
| **Answer Options** | **Response Percent** | **Response Count** |
| I support Phase II | 78.2% | 212 |
| I do NOT support Phase II | 21.8% | 59 |
| ***answered question*** | **271** |
| ***skipped question*** | **16** |

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|  |   |   |
|   | **I do NOT support Phase II** | **I support Phase II** |
| **Female** | 15% | 78% |
| **Male** | 31% | 66% |

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|  |   |   |
|   | **I do NOT support Phase II** | **I support Phase II** |
| I do not participate in COA programs/services | 27.2% | 66.3% |
| Once or twice a month | 19.6% | 74.5% |
| One or more times per year | 23.9% | 67.2% |
| One time per week | 14.8% | 81.5% |
| Two or more times per week | 8.5% | 91.5% |

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| **Count of Phase 2** | Column Labels |   |   |   |
| Row Labels | I do NOT support Phase II | I support Phase II | (blank) | Grand Total |
| Property taxes | 34 | 49 |   | 83 |
| (blank) | 25 | 163 |   | 188 |
| **Grand Total** | **59** | **212** |  | **271** |