

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Annual Planning Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2018
Hildreth House Porch

Present: Deb Thomson, Beth Williams, Victoria Hayao, Bruce Dolimount, Carol Lee Tonge, Carl Sciple, Cathy Walker, COA Director Debbie Thompson, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee, Friends of the Council on Aging Representative Sharon Briggs, Marie Sobalvarro

Absent: Fran Maiore, Guy Oliva, selectmen liaison Lucy Wallace, Minuteman representative Pam Frederick

The meeting was convened at 9:03 a.m.

The minutes of the June 19, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

The final FY2018 account balances are as follows:

Revolving Funds	\$ 8,468.55
MART	3,023.52
Payroll	2,282.00
Gift account	63,075.75
Formula grant	1,421.65

Director's Report

The outreach department now has not only the town nurse coming the third Tuesday of the month, but also someone from Minuteman Options Counseling department at the same time. So far it has been well received, and a few of our seniors have received a lot of help from them. The level of needs with our seniors has remained high, and we still have a few who are in the protective service system, with case managers who are working hard to get some help for them.

The Mart contract has still not been signed by this town (and others) but we are close to coming to an agreement.

There was a homeless woman who the outreach department has been working with for months and she now has an apartment in a subsidized complex in Groton. The staff has gone above and beyond to stay in touch

with her through her trials and tribulations of getting her situated. Debbie will put out a request to local agencies to see if she can get a donation from someone who will purchase a full-sized bed for her. Staff will reach out to agencies for used furniture, but because of the concern of bed bugs they would rather see about someone buying a bed so she can start her new life with some furniture. The board agreed to use either Formula Grant money or the gift account to purchase the bed. Debbie is planning to print new COA brochures with updated information about staff, programs and activities. Debbie and staff are working on more trips and programs for September and October, including a ham & bean supper on Wednesday, September 12th.

Public Comment:

There were no comments from the public.

Program Committee:

Discussion was held regarding possible programs for the coming year.

A few suggestions were:

1. Life transitions – healthy aging, retirement issues, brain health, sexuality, prescription drugs and seniors;
2. Driver's license problems with renewal;
3. Suddenly Single – car maintenance, plumbing, checks and checking accounts;
4. TED talks;
5. 10 Steps of Aging;
6. Book club – This program has already been started. Charlotte Winchell did "Being Mortal." Next book scheduled is "Life is so Good"
7. Senior tax exemption – how does it work, who is eligible.
8. Decisions after Death – who to call, what steps to take when a loved one dies.
9. Homesteads and Trusts – possibly have some local experts (lawyers, financial advisors) lead a panel discussion regarding what they are and who to work with.
10. Seniors teaching others their skills.

Goals 2018-2019

Board members reviewed the goals set at last year's planning meeting and agreed to continue working on some of them.

The board agreed on the following goals for the coming year:

1. Increase COA's voice and visibility through education and outreach, including liaisons with town committees, advertising in the Press and social media, and working with the Friends of the Council on Aging and continuing articles in the Press regarding senior issues. It was decided that the COA will have booths at both the Lions Volksfest (September 8) and the October Flea Market to distribute literature about the COA and Hildreth House programs and services.
2. Continue to support Hildreth House staff through ongoing communication and active participation in events
3. Continue to document unmet needs regarding transportation and space.
4. Keep Phase 2 moving forward and on schedule.
5. Cleaning – Establish a thorough cleaning schedule and advocate for funding in the annual town operating budget

Phase 2

Marie Sobalvarro updated the board as to the status of Phase 2 planning by the town. The RFQ (Request for Qualification) is ready to go. A decision towards who wins the bid would be handled by Town Hall (Marie) and the Town Building Committee (Cindy Russo-chair, Rick Maiore, Pablo Carbonell, and Steve Moeser). If the architect is hired this fall (sounds like October) we should have a new schematic plan and estimate for Phase 2 early in 2019 for consideration at the 2020 Town Meeting. The COA board will appoint a representative to the committee working towards this project at the September meeting.

Committees and Liaisons

Committees

Outreach & Education
Housing
Programs
Fiscal Projects

Victoria Hayao
Carl Sciple, Bruce Dolimount
Deb Thomson, Sharon Briggs
Cathy Walker, Victoria Hayao

Liaisons:

Selectman	Beth Williams
School Committee	Fran Maiore
Planning Board	Carl Sciple
FCOA	Carol Lee Tonge, Fran Maiore
Parks & Rec	Cathy Walker, Beth Williams
Minuteman	Pam Frederick, Beth Williams

New Officers

The board elected the following officers for the upcoming year:

Co-Chair	Beth Williams & Cathy Walker
Treasurer	Bruce Dolimount
Recorder	Connie Larrabee

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

The next meeting of the COA Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Williams, recorder
