

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
Via Zoom Conference

Present: Beth Williams, Guy Oliva, Chet Hooper, Lynne Musto-Pesa, Kim Schwarz, Carl Sciple, Fran
Maiores, Cathy Walker, recorder/alternate Connie Larrabee, COA Director Debbie Thompson
FCOA Co-Chair Sharon Briggs
Absent: Nancy Webber

The meeting was convened at 4:02 p.m.

The minutes of the May 18, 2021 board meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report

Account balances as of 6/1/2021 – per MUNIS report

COA Salary	\$37,110	(Annual Budget: \$163,019)
COA Expense	7,880	(Annual Budget: 10,547)
MART Salary	12,842	(Annual Budget: 35,108)
MART Expense	389	(Annual Budget 1,000)
Gift account	84,854	(\$7,000 reserved for kitchen)
Formula Grant	6,832	
Revolving Funds	7,166	

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 expense balances can be used for MART-related items. Debbie will stock up on supplies as much as possible to use up the expense balances. She has purchased 3 new Dell computers totaling \$2,757, which will come from the COA expense account.

Director's Report – Debbie Thompson

Outreach

The outreach coordinators have been making home visits, which are a welcome change after a year of remote contact only.

By the end of June we will stop delivering meals to those who normally come to congregate meals.

Anyone who is frail and needs home delivery will be set up as a Meals on Wheels client. Our outreach coordinators will make sure everyone who needs services will get what they need when Hildreth House is closed for the week of July 5.

During the summer we will have a remembrance book for people to fill out in memory of those we have lost in the past year. A celebration of life will be planned for September.

Our art group has started meeting again on Mondays, and men's and women's bridge groups will start at the end of June. In-person programs include the art group, Story Slam, Vets Café, men's and women's coffees, Mahjong, fiber arts, and tai chi. Other fitness classes still meet via Zoom.

If all goes well, congregate meals will resume in September.

COMING EVENTS

Wed., June 16	Ice Cream Social on the porch	3-4 p.m.
Wed., June 23	RiverCourt luncheon on porch	12 noon
Tues., July 13	Veterans Café	9 a.m.
Wed., July 21	Cooking with Anton followed by lunch	11 a.m.
Mon., August 9	Podiatry by appointment	9-12

Hildreth House will be closed Monday, July 5 to Friday, July 9. Programs and transportation will resume Monday, July 12.

Phase 2 alternative

The Permanent Building Committee is working on drafts for two requests for proposals – one for leasing a building and the other for buying a building. There seems to be little the COA can do to speed up the process, but Beth said she's hopeful the project is finally moving forward.

Someone has suggested to Beth that the Bob Eisengrein Community Center in Devens would be a good site for a Harvard-Devens senior/community center. The building in question is five miles from the center of Harvard and well outside the current town boundaries. Board members had many questions about the feasibility of this proposal, but Beth said she planned to tell the Permanent Building Committee about it.

Friends of the Council on Aging – Sharon Briggs

The Friends are always looking for new members, and are interested in supporting mental health programs in the coming year.

New Business

Cooling Center

The Board of Health has asked if Hildreth House could be used as a cooling center during a heat wave. The building was not yet open to the public during the oppressive hot spell early in June. But now it could provide relief for seniors and others during regular weekday hours. The problem would be providing staffing for a cooling center on weekends. Hildreth House was used as a cooling center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on a hot weekend a couple of years ago and was staffed by volunteers those two days.

Several board members suggested that the Bromfield School and the town library seem better suited to serve as cooling centers, but they would also require volunteers to operate when the buildings are normally closed.

Debbie said the COA does reach out to elderly residents in weather emergencies, but there's no plan in place to cover weekends. She will contact Fire Chief Rick Sicard and Board of Health member Libby Levison to follow up on the cooling center issue.

New leadership

Board treasurer Cathy Walker will serve as interim chair until the board elects new officers in August. The board voted unanimously not to hold a meeting in July unless there is an urgent need for one.

The board's annual planning meeting will be held Tuesday, August 17 at 4 p.m. at Hildreth House. At that meeting, officers will be elected and plans developed for the coming year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder