

Harvard Council on Aging  
Minutes: Monday, February 23, 2015  
COA Board of Directors

Present: Sue Guswa, Connie Larrabee, Bruce Dolimount, Suzanne Roberts, Hank Fitek, Pam Frederick, Fran Nickerson, Katie Petrossi, Carlene Phillips.  
Absent: COA Director Debbie Thompson  
Guests: Lucy Wallace, selectman, Erin McBee, Planning Board, Claudia Jarrett, FCOA

The minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Dolimont reported that the Formula Grant money had been received. Some trips were cancelled due to weather and some destinations may give refunds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building Project update: Connie reported that she and Lucy met with Kara Minar and Erin McBee of the Planning Board to talk about the parking plan. The Planning Board has a MRPC traffic study for the center of town and intends to include the Hildreth House and Fire Station driveways. This study ends late September.

Ken Swanton went to Lancaster to look at files from Harvard's MRPC program and said each one was about four inches thick. He said the grant money could be used for architect fees as well as the lift.

Lucy Wallace said the homes that were repaired using the grant money before were counted as affordable housing in Harvard until the house was sold and the loan was repaid. If we use the grant money toward loans, those would replace some of the affordable homes lost when the grant money was repaid.

Connie made a motion to use \$100,000 of the \$120,000 block grant money for the Hildreth House project. There was discussion pro and con for this.

VOTE: The COA Board voted 4 to 3 against the motion.

Program Committee: The next event is a Food as Memory evening at the Hildreth House February 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Housing Committee: The housing committee decided on several field trips for April to assess housing options in other towns. Sue Guswa said she will contact the town assessor's office to determine the number of apartments in private

homes.

Minuteman Senior Services: Hank Fitek reported that Minuteman services is a well-run organization and a resource center for 16 communities. They have a good lobbyist.

He suggested we all check out their website.

Policies and Procedures for the COA: Connie will insert new wording for Deb's budget oversight, for members' terms, and for voting members. Deb's job description will be checked for budget oversight.

#### Director's Report - Debbie Thompson

The Finance Committee voted to recommend a second outreach worker and the selectmen already voted in favor of this. This will go to town meeting as a small warrant article for a vote.

Cable Access Channel: Progress is being made to get on this in March with two high school students, Colby and Moira, already helping by taking pictures at Hildreth House events.

Outreach: Difficult cases at this time and back-to-back snow storms have added to the help frail elders are needing.

Facebook/social media: Beth and Adam have been updating Facebook and posting on "Next Door Harvard."

MRPC Grant: A conversation with Ginger Quarles, the former COA director, revealed information about the amount of paperwork and other work involved in applying for a grant. Deb recommends using the grant money toward the HH project.

Friends of the COA: Claudia Jarrett reported that the flyer and FAQ's on the HH project will be included in the March newsletter. She also discussed newspaper ads and possible coffees. The FCOA will hold an informational meeting March 12, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Hildreth House with a light dinner served.

The next COA board meeting:: March 16, 2015

Pam Frederick, recorder

