

Harvard Council On Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
February 22, 2010

Present: Carlene Phillips, Fran Nickerson, Sharon Briggs, Barbara Kemp, Mike Peters, Bill Mohn, Janice Goodell, Connie Larrabee, Ginger Quarles
Guest: Stu Sklar
Absent: Colleen Nigzus

Call to order: 4 p.m.

Local Income Tax Initiative: School Committee member Stu Sklar explained the local income tax initiative he hopes to bring to a town meeting vote. The idea is to institute a flat 2 percent income tax in town that would replace roughly half of property tax revenues. The School Committee supports the idea "in concept," Sklar said, and he hopes to generate more support by speaking to various town groups, including the COA. Board members raised several questions about the proposal but came to no decision about supporting it.

The minutes of the January board meeting were approved as submitted.

The treasurer's report was approved as submitted

Action Plans Update:

The new COA brochure is almost finished and will be at the Hildreth House for review if board members are interested.

Three well-qualified candidates for the volunteer coordinator's position have been interviewed and all three have agreed to work on various aspects of the program. Jim King will coordinate the handyman program; Judy Pon will be events coordinator; and Laura Bridges will concentrate on volunteer appreciation activities, and also on contacts with organizations such as the Woman's Club.

Jan Goodell reported little action on the housing front, and said she has heard nothing from the Harvard Conservation Trust regarding Barba's Point.

Old Business:

Ginger, Maria, and several board members, along with members of the Municipal Buildings Task Force, toured St. Theresa's church and rectory on February 18 to evaluate its potential as a senior center. Ginger noted that the rectory should be an integral part of the deal as the church itself would be difficult to retrofit for our office needs. During the tour, the parish priest, Father Dennis, said the COA could use the large downstairs room for meals immediately; Ginger will follow up with him on that offer, and also ask about using the facility for exercise classes. The Unitarian Church has already said we can use the new fellowship building starting in April unless a renter materializes.

The Hildreth House task force met on February 11 and decided to concentrate on making the upstairs front parlor into an attractive, comfortable gathering place. The first step will be to clean out and organize medical equipment stored in that room and its closets . Ginger reported that a young volunteer named Derek Thurston might be able to help with this project.

After a brief discussion the group decided on the following dates for upcoming events: the COA Luau will be held sometime in May, the barbeque in July, and a possible volunteer-appreciation event in the fall.

Director's Report:

Ginger has had budget meetings with both the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen, and is waiting to hear what their decision will be in regard to the COA appropriation.

A plan is still in the works to open the computer room every Friday, possibly beginning in April. Volunteer Adam Miller would be available to help seniors with their computer questions, and also might be able to help put together a short promotional video for the COA.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee