

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
May 17, 2010

Present: Sharon Briggs, Jan Goodell, Barbara Kemp, Carlene Phillips, Fran Nickerson, Bill Mohn, Connie Larrabee. Ginger Quarles
Absent: Colleen Nigzus
Guests: Laura Andrews, Robert Fernandez

Call to order: 4:05 p.m.

The minutes of the April board meeting were approved as corrected.

The treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Action Plans Update

Public Relations: Connie reported that new COA brochures have been delivered to the Congregational Church office, and put in the upstairs display rack at the library. The last bunch will go to the Westward Orchard farmstand when it opens in June.

The new cable committee program director, Robert Fernandez, is on the agenda to talk about possible COA programming and help with the proposed informational video.

Volunteer Coordination: An interview with volunteer coordinator Laura Bridges appeared recently in the *Harvard Press* and the board agreed it was a good article. Unfortunately, the publicity hasn't resulted in calls from people interested in volunteering. Members agreed that the board should continue efforts to get more exposure in the press.

Housing: Ginger reported that a man representing an investment group appeared at Hildreth House recently, asking questions pertaining to Lou Russo's planned development on Ayer Road. The man was interested in knowing who the likely tenants might be. He seemed to think that construction would start fairly soon.

Old Business

Handyman Project: Ginger reported that town counsel is reviewing the liability release form, and that Tim Bragan will inform the selectmen about it. Ten senior citizens have expressed interest in getting help with various projects, but so far nobody has volunteered to do the work. Sharon suggested putting notices in the newspapers soliciting volunteers, and also asking people who already volunteer for the COA if they know anybody who might be interested. There was a question about whether the volunteer handymen would be paid; Ginger said they would not.

Hildreth House maintenance: Sharon invited Tim Bragan to attend the June board meeting to discuss the issue.

Municipal Building Task Force: Sharon and Carlene have been asked to serve on the Hildreth House/senior center subcommittee. Lucy Wallace will be chairperson.

New Business

Reverse 911: The new system of town-wide communication is being set up, and Fire Chief Bob Mignard asked Ginger whether the COA wants a way to contact just seniors. The board agreed that we want that option, and Sharon volunteered to work on implementing it.

Visitors: Robert Fernandez, program director for Harvard Cable, explained that his job entails developing content for local Channels 12 and 13. He welcomes ideas for new programs, and supports the idea of having a regular schedule of programs about topics of interest to seniors. He also said he can help find a student to work on the planned COA informational video, possibly during the summer. Several board members had suggestions about useful programming for seniors, including previously taped programs about Lyme disease, drug interactions, and other health-related topics. He will see if he can get someone to film the two remaining COA programs in the Music of Your Life series.

Laura Andrews has expressed interest in being a board member and attended the meeting to learn more about what we do. She will get in touch with Town Hall to find out how to proceed in the appointment process.

Director's Report

Volunteer Fair: The annual volunteer fair was held May 15 but there was virtually no publicity and scant attendance. Laura Bridges worked hard to put a COA display together on very short notice.

The annual COA Luau will be held May 21, and three members of the Lions Club have been recruited to set up tables beforehand. The Ukulele Union will perform.

Aerobics and Tai chi classes have started using the new Unitarian Church Fellowship Building as of May 17. The church won't charge us to use the building unless they get a paying tenant.

Only three people attended the recent handyman program with a speaker from Aubuchon Hardware. Board members agreed that weekly email reminders of upcoming events could improve attendance. Ginger will talk to Bill about it.

The new census figures are in showing a population of 1,212 residents over the age of 60 in Harvard.

Ginger attended the annual meeting of the Woman's Club and thanked members for the club's generous cash donations, and for providing lunch at the Hildreth Café once a month.

The annual COA barbeque is tentatively set for Sunday, July 18th, if that date is acceptable to events coordinator Judy Pon. The board agreed there would be no charge for tickets, but a donation bucket will be set out.

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

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee

