

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
October 18, 2010

Present: Sharon Briggs, Carlene Phillips, Janice Goodell, Bill Mohn, Connie Larrabee, Ginger Quarles, Maria Holland

Absent: Mike Peters, Fran Nickerson, Barbara Kemp

Call to order: 4:30 p.m.

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

The treasurer's report was approved with one correction.

FY 2012-2017 Budget Proposal

The board reviewed and discussed a draft budget proposal for fiscal years 2012 through 2017. Board members agreed with Ginger's suggestion that the COA should request that the MART van dispatcher be moved from Town Hall to Hildreth House now that the office is open five days a week. For that purpose, she included \$8,600 in the COA budget request for 13 hours a week at \$13.23 per hour, which would be reimbursed by MART. She has discussed this proposal with Selectwoman Marie Sobalvarro, Finance Director Lorraine Leonard, and Town Administrator Tim Bragan, but it's unclear whether the Finance Department will support the change because of its implications for Town Hall staffing. Nevertheless, the board agreed that the concept makes sense and that it would help provide additional staff coverage at Hildreth House. The dispatcher could also serve as a receptionist and could help with clerical work as well.

The board also unanimously approved the idea of increasing the outreach coordinator's hours from 16 to 19 per week, to be offset by an additional surcharge on trips. The surcharge would go from \$2 to \$5 per trip, in addition to the usual \$2 for the van.

Old Business

The October 2nd Municipal Buildings Task Force workshop was not well-attended, but a number of seniors came out to participate in the discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13th. The board had a brief discussion about requirements for a senior center, and agreed that expandability is a crucial element, given projected growth in the senior population. Connie and Carlene questioned the need for exercise facilities, given the space now available in the churches, but agreed that a new (or renovated) senior center should have the potential to accommodate fitness classes if the need arises.

Lucy Wallace has consented to serve on the COA board and will begin the appointment process. The board had earlier agreed that she would be an excellent candidate.

The number of RSVPs for the October 28 Volunteer Appreciation Celebration has been disappointing thus far, with only a dozen COA volunteers saying they will attend. The planning committee will meet Friday morning, October 22, and decide how to spark more interest.

The handyman program has a new volunteer who has attended to three jobs so far. But the program is still without a coordinator.

New Business

Board members agreed with Connie's suggestion that a message board would be useful to remind people of regularly scheduled and special events. Connie will check with Town Hall to see if the board where meetings used to be posted outside might be available now that posting requirements have changed. An alternative would be to acquire an easel to display a posting of events inside.

The new Friday women's coffee is off to a slow start and would benefit from more publicity. It will be included in the Harvard Press community calendar from now on.

Ginger is considering starting a new exercise group from 8:15 to 9:15 Friday mornings at Hildreth House, which might increase attendance at the coffees. The exercise group would not have an instructor, but would follow a DVD; a new DVD player is needed. The regular yoga class meets twice a week at the old library now, but hopes to move to the Congregational Church as soon as that space is ready.

Indian Hill will apply for a Cultural Council grant to provide seniors with tickets to its popular orchestra series. Indian Hill will provide one extra ticket for every three the grant covers.

Ginger reported on a new program recruiting seniors to participate in an elementary school reading program, and Sharon and Janice immediately signed up.

Given the late hour, the board adjourned at 6 p.m. without hearing reports from the various team leaders. The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, at which time the board will discuss whether to continue its late-afternoon meeting time.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee