

**Harvard Council on Aging**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 14, 2011

Present: Sharon Briggs, Janice Goodell, Connie Larrabee, Bill Mohn, Lucy Wallace,  
Fran Nickerson, Ginger Quarles

Absent: Barbara Kemp, Carlene Phillips, Mike Peters

Call to order: 4: 00 p.m.

The minutes of the January 10 board meeting were approved as corrected. The minutes of the January 27 special meeting were approved as submitted.

The treasurer's report was approved as submitted. There was a brief discussion about the scholarship account for anyone who can't afford the cost of a trip, and the board agreed that the account should be a separate item in the treasurer's report

**Old Business :**

A training session for new board members will be hosted by the Groton COA on April 8 from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. at the Groton Senior Center. The training is open to Friends of the COA and prospective board members as well. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Groton COA.

The selectmen have discussed the senior tax work-off problem but have made no decision about it. The library and the schools have come up with 4 new jobs for the program, and the board agreed that the COA should try to come up with more positions, in addition to the three we already have. Ginger is considering starting a Thursday lunch, which would require a cook if fewer than 20 attend. But the total would still fall far short of the 23 jobs needed for the current number of applicants. Other towns have an income limit, which could cut down on the number of applicants, but it's too late to implement that change now. The selectmen will consider it again at a future meeting.

**New Business:**

Ginger is working with events coordinator Judy Pon on a dinner to be held Sunday, March 20, at the Congregational Church, to benefit Loaves & Fishes and celebrate the arrival of spring. The dinner will be catered by Chef Paul, and admission will be \$15 per person and a bag of groceries. A jazz quartet will provide entertainment. Ginger's goal is to have one social event for seniors per season every year. The MART van malfunctioned on a recent Saturday trip to the play Mama Mia, and the driver was unable to get assistance from MART. It seems that MART has no maintenance person working on weekends, which means we'll have to curtail weekend trips from now on.

### **Director's Report:**

Ginger plans to attend the upcoming MCOA meeting to protest the idea of continuing to use the 2000 census figures to determine state formula grant amounts. Many cities are losing seniors so they want to retain the old figures, but Harvard's senior population is growing fast, and we've been under-funded for many years.

With Cultural Council funding, Ginger has been giving away 4 tickets to each concert in the Indian Hill concert series, but demand for those tickets has not been great. She plans to review the program next year.

State Representative Jen Benson has rescheduled her meeting with COA directors in her district to March 7. The meeting was postponed because of snow, and will be held at Hildreth House.

Ginger asked for a volunteer to help with the Boy Scout senior men's breakfast on Sunday, March 6. The volunteer would have to open Hildreth House at 7 a.m.

The Bromfield Student Council lunch is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, and all board members are invited to attend.

Ginger reported that the new computer classes are quite popular, and seem to draw more participants than the Friday morning drop-in program did.

The Clinton COA is sponsoring a fundraising training for Friends of the COA on April 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. Board members are encouraged to attend, but we agreed that the \$35 fee might be a deterrent.

Ginger will take a day off on Friday, February 25 to visit family, but Maria will cover the office that day.

### **Municipal Buildings Committee Update**

Lucy reported that the MBC is recommending a single warrant article at Annual Town Meeting asking for \$225,000 for conceptual designs of proposed upgrades and additions to Town Hall and Hildreth House. The COA board spent the rest of the meeting discussing ways to promote the MBC proposal, and to counter an alternative proposal to make the Old Library a senior center. The board agreed to: 1) circulate a petition in support of keeping the senior center at Hildreth House to present to the selectmen at their March 1 meeting; 2) encourage letters to the editors of local newspapers; and 3) call the selectmen directly. Members also agreed it would be a good idea to open Hildreth House - and possibly Town Hall and the old library - to the public on a Sunday, tentatively set for March 13, starting around 11 a.m. to attract churchgoers. Attendees would get a tour, and information about the MBC proposal.

Further outreach plans include an MBC presentation after lunch at the Hildreth Café on Tuesday, March 22, and possibly talks with groups such as the Lions Club, Woman's Club, and Women's Business Network. Board members agreed it would be helpful to identify a spokesperson for each decade over the age of 50, who would be willing to talk about the needs of their respective age groups. In addition, Ginger will include an article in the March newsletter, informing seniors about the issue and reminding them that Annual Town Meeting is April 2.

And finally, the board concurred with the idea of forming a political action committee, tentatively called Friends of the Hildreth House; an organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22 at 3 p.m. at Hildreth House.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee