

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
July 11, 2011

Present: Carlene Phillips, Connie Larrabee, Lucy Wallace, Sharon Briggs, Fran Nickerson, Katie Petrossi. Maria Holland, Marie Sobalvarro
Absent: Mike Peters, Bonnie Sweeney

Call to order: 4: 05 p.m.

The minutes of the June 13, 2011 Board of Directors meeting were approved as submitted.

There was no treasurer's report

New Business: COA Director Finalists

The main purpose of the meeting was for the full board to meet and interview the two finalists previously chosen by the interview committee: Karen Phillips, COA director in Sterling; and Deborah Thompson, COA outreach and volunteer coordinator in Groton. Each candidate was given 45 minutes to make an opening statement and respond to questions from board members. At the end of each interview, the board took a few minutes to review its impressions. Although both candidates were impressive, and each demonstrated considerable strengths and few weaknesses, the board had little difficulty deciding to recommend that the selectmen appoint Deborah Thompson as Harvard's new COA director. Her enthusiasm and energy were compelling, and her broad experience, creativity, and solid record in building collaborative programs to benefit seniors were impressive. Board members further concluded that she would be a capable and effective advocate for an expanded senior center, and for the needs of Harvard's growing senior population.

The vote to recommend Ms. Thompson was unanimous, and will be expressed in a letter to the selectmen.

Carlene and Sharon volunteered to represent the board at the July 9 selectmen's meeting, when the two finalists will be interviewed and hopefully an appointment will be made. Marie Sobalvarro explained that the BOS would discuss other business after the interviews, and would return to a discussion of the candidates later in the meeting. Board members expressed hope that the candidates would not stay for the discussion, although they are entitled to do so, and agreed it would be a good idea to escort them out when the interviews are over.

The next COA board meeting is scheduled for August 15 at 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee