

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
January 17, 2012

Present: Lucy Wallace, Fran Nickerson, Pam Frederick, Connie Larrabee, Mike Peters, Sharon Briggs, Debbie Thompson, Maria Holland
Absent: Katie Petrossi, Bonnie Sweeney, Carlene Phillips
Guests: Jan Goodell, Marie LeBlanc, Renee Senes

Call to order: 4: 10 p.m. at Hildreth House.

The minutes of the December 19, 2011 Board of Directors meeting were approved as submitted.

There was no treasurer's report.

Fiscal 2013 Budget

Lucy updated board members on the latest budget developments, including the COA's response to the Finance Committee's questions about moving the MART dispatcher to Hildreth House. The Finance Committee will discuss the COA budget on Wednesday, January 25th from 7:15 to 8 p.m. and board members were urged to attend if they can.

Hildreth House Fundraising

The board welcomed back former member Jan Goodell, who outlined her ideas about raising money for Hildreth House restoration and expansion. Jan has paid \$20 for a COA table at the upcoming Unitarian Church indoor flea market to raise seed money for future fundraising activities and to gauge the level of support. She proposed asking seniors to donate two items each for sale, and that the money be placed in a new restricted Friends of the Hildreth House account - apart from regular Friends of the COA (FCOA) funds - specifically for restoration and/or expansion. After a brief discussion and valuable input from longtime FCOA co-chairs Marie LeBlanc and Renee Senes, the board voted unanimously to support the flea market idea, but stipulated that the money raised should not be placed in a restricted account so there will be no doubt about the propriety of using it for a mailing or other fundraising expenses. Later in the fundraising process, a restricted account would most likely be established that would limit the use of funds. The flea market will be held Saturday, January 28th from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Most board members volunteered to help that day or the day before with pricing. Suggestions for future activities include an informational forum and/or reception in February and the formation of a committee to undertake serious fundraising. It will

be important to identify substantial donors, including support from the business community.

After years of fundraising for FCOA, Marie and Renee are ready to step down, and the board will renew its efforts to find new Friends and someone willing to take the lead. Membership information will be available at the flea market, as well as in the COA monthly newsletter. The end-of-the-year FCOA appeal generated \$2,600 in contributions.

Municipal Buildings Update

The next public forum is scheduled for Thursday, January 26th. Lucy gave a brief summary of the latest developments, and urged board members to attend the forum and, if possible, a meeting of the Municipal Buildings Committee on January 19th as well.

The question about whether Hildreth House will connect to the new town center sewer has been resolved. It will be connected, with water conservation measures in place.

Director's Report

The heating system has been repaired and switched to gas but we didn't get a new furnace, as we'd hoped. Some rooms are too hot (Debbie's office) and others too cold (Maria's office, living room, kitchen), and Maria says some folks have complained about it. Peter Warren has been working to solve the problem. Mike will check to see that the storm windows are all in place, and the board agreed that Debbie should set the thermostat at 70 or above if necessary.

After the first snow of 2012, the parking lot was so slippery that lunch had to be cancelled. Debbie contacted the DPW and a truck did come to sand eventually, although she had no answer to her email. She will try to set up a direct line of communication with Rich Nota.

The 2012 tax work-off program is gearing up, and Debbie will contact town departments to see what jobs they might have. The board debated whether to establish income-eligibility restrictions but finally agreed not to do so until it becomes necessary to limit the number of participants for financial reasons. One still unresolved question is whether a surrogate can work to offset another person's taxes.

Video Project

Mike has finished filming Debbie and re-filming Bill, but editing but is taking more time than anticipated. We hope to use the video as an informational tool in support of COA programs, as well as Hildreth House renovation and expansion.

The next COA board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21 at 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee