

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
April 23, 2012

Present: Lucy Wallace, Fran Nickerson, Pam Frederick, Connie Larrabee, Sharon Briggs, Katie Petrossi, Debbie Thompson
Absent: Carlene Phillips, Mike Peters, Bonnie Sweeney
Guests: Hank Fitek, Marna Sorenson, Joe Hutchinson

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

The minutes of the March 26, 2012 Board of Directors meeting were approved as submitted.

There was no treasurer's report, but Sharon said all accounts are on track.

Old Business

Update on Friends of the COA activities:

The Hildreth House porch sale will take place on Saturday, May 12 from 10 am to 2 pm., the same day as the Apple Blossom Festival. Connie reported that Jan Goodell, Mary Allen, and Kathy Hewett have volunteered to help. Deb and her band will perform. Pam said she would help with the advertising signs, similar to what was used for the UU Church flea market.

Ann Taylor has agreed to co-chair fundraising for the proposed Hildreth House addition. Lucy has been in touch with several others who might be interested in helping, including Jack Purdy, Cindy O'Brien, and Marcia Croyle. The board agreed that the fundraising effort should begin in earnest in the fall.

Board vacancies: The number of board vacancies for the coming year is still not known, but could be as many as three. Marna Sorenson, Hank Fitek, and Suzanne Roberts have all expressed interest in serving on the board. Marna and Hank attended the meeting as observers, but Suzanne was unable to come.

Municipal Buildings Update: The current cost estimate of the proposed Hildreth House renovation and addition is \$5.5 million, but it's not clear how much of that would have to be raised through private donations. If the CPA surcharge is raised at Town Meeting, it might be possible to obtain some funding from that source. The current timeline calls for a vote on the project at next year's Annual Town Meeting, so we need to get going as soon as possible.

There was a brief discussion about possible temporary town offices sites if the Town Hall reconstruction project is approved. There seemed to be general agreement that the subject has not been adequately researched.

New Business

Master Plan Update: Lucy and Joe Hutchinson reported on the Planning Board's request for Master Plan funding at Annual Town Meeting. The request, for \$100,000, would pay for phase 2 of the plan update, which would dig deeper into various aspects of phase 1 findings. The need for smaller housing in the mid-price range is of particular interest to seniors, and would be one subject for further study. Board members agreed that it would be a good time for another COA survey to determine what type of housing would be most desirable; the most recent survey was done five years ago and found considerable interest in both rentals and cluster housing.

New Programs: Katie agreed to organize a series on purposeful aging in the fall, and Fran suggested a program on hospice care. Lucy said that Jack Whelan would be a good resource for that. The programs would consist of at least two sessions each.

MART dispatcher/Receptionist: The board reviewed the job description for the new position at Hildreth House. Debbie will consult Tim Bragan about advertising the position in May, with the intention of hiring someone by July 1. Connie, Pam, and Debbie will be the search committee, reading resumes and interviewing candidates.

Tax Work-off Proxy: Connie, Fran, and Katie agreed to speak to the issue if questions were raised at Town Meeting. The Board will discuss policy questions, including income eligibility, at a future meeting.

Director's Report

Twenty-two people are signed up for the tax work-off program and all have been assigned to jobs. With \$10,000 allotted to the program, participants can each work 56.5 hours and have \$452 deducted from their property tax bill. Assigned jobs include five at the schools, three at the library, two at the beach, two clearing conservation trails, seven at Hildreth House, and one each at Town Hall, the DPW, and the police station. Debbie suggested that Meals on Wheels drivers should be part of the program, too.

Telephone Upgrade: The COA now has a "rollover" line for incoming calls when the primary line is busy. It's not working as well as it should be so an upgrade might be required. Debbie is keeping an eye on the budget to see where there might be money to pay for the upgrade.

MART van driver: A new van driver – James Peters – has been hired and trained.

Upcoming Events: May 15 - Podiatry Clinic 9-1.

May 16 - Shopping trip to Solomon Pond Mall

June 1 – Computer photo class with Mike and Adam

June 12 – "And now, Mark Twain" at Hildreth House

Vacation days: Bill and Maria will cover Hildreth House on May 7 and May 17-18. while Debbie is off, and also on Tuesday May 22, when she goes to a conference.

The next COA board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 21 2012 at 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee