

**Harvard Council on Aging  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 21, 2013  
Hildreth House**

Present: Pam Frederick, Sue Guswa, Connie Larrabee, Hank Fitek, Carlene Phillips, Katie Petrossi, Suzanne Roberts, Fran Nickerson, Debbie Thompson  
Absent: Bruce Dolimount  
Observers: Pat White, Julia Kacmarck (Harvard Hillside)

Call to Order: 4:05

The minutes of the September 16, 2013 board meeting were approved as submitted.  
There was no treasurer's report.

**Program Committee Review**

The board discussed the October 17 panel discussion and agreed we had a good turnout considering the program's timing the night after Special Town Meeting. There were some problems with panelists who didn't make effective use of the microphones, but many attendees stayed to speak with the four panelists afterward, and a man from Bolton sent a card thanking the COA for the program. Board members made several suggestions for future programs, such as a panel of town residents who are examples of purposeful aging, or a program devoted to gender issues. The next program in our Life Transitions series – Paths to Stress Reduction - is scheduled for November 14.

**HHIC Update**

Given the Special Town Meeting vote against additional funding for the Town Hall building project, board members agreed that the COA has to present a clear, coherent argument for the Hildreth House project going forward. Fran suggested that the selectmen be invited to Hildreth House, given wheelchairs and walkers, and left to figure out how to get into the building and gain access to a meeting on the second floor.

Connie asked for board members' opinions on whether to go for full funding at Annual Town Meeting in April, or for design development - a limited and less expensive option - instead. Opinions varied, but many members expressed reservations about asking for full funding this year. The prevailing view seemed to favor asking for design development funding this year and launching a fundraising drive after Annual Town Meeting. That would give the COA and FCOA time to get organized and initiate the groundwork for a successful capital campaign.

**Director's Report**

**FY 2015 budget**

It is now budget season again, and the FinCom has determined there will be no cola increase; staff will just move up one step (about 2%) per person. There is to be no increase in the \$1,995 expense budget, either. The good news is they are not asking us to cut anything at this time.

**Cultural Council grant**

Debbie has applied for two Cultural Council grants. One is for “Clutter Control” (\$197), by Dave Downs, who does a humorous view of what to do with our “stuff.” The other is to pay a DJ (\$200) for a “Rock & Roll Dance Party” (\$200) following the Life Transitions program that Katie wants to call Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll. .

### **Outreach Update**

Outreach has been busy with a number of cases this past month, including two seniors who have become frail in a short span. We have also lost a couple who were regulars at Hildreth House lunches. Maria and Debbie have been working to place one gentleman’s cats – which was one of his final wishes. Maria has followed up on some that we haven’t seen in a while and will be making more home visits in the next month.

### **MCOA Conference**

Fundraising consultant Barrie Atkin is coming Friday, Oct. 25 at 1:30pm. She was a speaker at the conference and has agreed to give us some guidance on fundraising in exchange for coffee and a pastry.

### **Upcoming events**

- October 23 – SHINE presentation, open enrollment
- October 31 – Halloween Party put on by the Harvard Woman’s Club
- November 4 – Shingles presentation by Nashoba Nursing
- November 7 – Harvest dinner put on by Farmer’s Market/students/Chef Paul (Funded by Lions Club grant)
- November 8 – Boston Christmas Festival trip
- November 13 – Centerpiece class
- November 14 – Life Transitions program
- November 18 – Podiatry Clinic
- November 22 – JFK Library trip

### **Old Business**

At the board’s request, FCOA treasurer Renee Senes has submitted a report of FCOA accounts. The board agreed to invite Renee to the November meeting for further clarification.

### **New Business**

Cell Tower:

Alarmed that the Hildreth land is being considered as a possible site for a cell tower, the board agreed that it wants to be represented at any meeting where the tower location is discussed, and involved in any decision about the site. Connie agreed to draft a letter to the selectmen expressing the COA’s concerns.

Deb reported that a new regional transportation company is expected to approach the Harvard selectmen with a plan to consolidate van services for seniors. The plan would result in much longer trips and longer waits, and in a breakdown in existing relationships between riders and van drivers. The board agreed with Deb that Harvard should not participate.

The next COA board meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2013

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee