

**Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
March 17, 2014
Hildreth House**

Present: Pam Frederick, Bruce Dolimount, Connie Larrabee, Hank Fitek, Katie Petrossi, Suzanne Roberts, Carlene Phillips, Fran Nickerson, Lucy Wallace

Absent: Sue Guswa

Guests: Sharon Briggs, Claudia Jarratt (FCOA)

Call to Order: 4:05

The minutes of the February 10, 2014 board meeting were approved as revised. The treasurer's report was approved.

Bruce explained that \$1,400 in Formula Grant funding is still uncommitted after setting aside \$400 for a computer and \$790 for the My Senior Center data base annual fee. The committee agreed that the COA should make better use of My Senior Center than it does, both to justify the expense and because it can be such a valuable tool.

Katie will help bolster current use and get more data entered, while Sharon wants to use it to track FCOA membership and donations.

Program Committee Report

The committee is preparing for the Brain Fitness Workshop to be held on Saturday, March 22 from 1 to 3 pm in Volunteers Hall. Board members were urged to email their friends and invite them to the event.

Two of the three speakers have been lined up for the Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n Roll program on April 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Volunteers Hall. The speakers will include a sex therapist, a pharmacist, and someone who will talk about Rock 'n Roll from a cultural perspective.

Talking Points Committee

The committee has had trouble getting together in the past month due to weather and other scheduling conflicts. Members agreed that defining our message is as important as ever, so work will resume in April.

Hildreth House Improvement Committee Update

The HHIC has approval from the selectmen to continue with schematic design aimed at identifying further cost reductions and/or the possibility of doing the project in phases. Connie explained the proposed scope of the work, and board members expressed objections to one element: the option that the proposed addition be funded by private donations. They suggested "sources to be determined" instead.

New Business

Annual Town Meeting: Bruce volunteered to speak at Annual Town Meeting in support of the COA article for parking lot repair. The article might be withdrawn if other funding sources have been assured by then.

The COA, HHIC, and FCOA will have a table in the Cronin Auditorium lobby at Town Meeting. Suzanne volunteered to bring balloons, Connie will supply candy, and we will have literature and hand-outs on display.

Exercise class contributions: Connie proposed that we consider making a contribution to the churches in appreciation for allowing COA exercise classes to use their facilities free of charge. Claudia Jarratt objected to the idea on the grounds that we need all the help we can get, and that providing such space is part of the church mission.

Formula Grant: Board members briefly discussed how the remaining Formula Grant funds should be used. Suggestions included buying a dishwasher, supplies, food, and bathroom fixtures. The board agreed it would revisit this question next month.

Director's Report

Cultural Council programs

On April 16 at 11 a.m. we will be offering "Clutter Control with Dave Downs," which is supported by one of the Cultural Council grants this year. The other grant was to support our Rock & Roll Dance Party, which is slated for May 17 at pm. The venue is still uncertain.

Intergenerational Programs

The St. Patrick's Day luncheon was well attended with more than 50 people enjoying a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner. This was a community effort with the meal being purchased and prepared by the Lions Club and the table centerpieces by Girl Scout Junior Troop 30741 under the direction of Grace Miller. The Irish soda bread was made by Girl Scout Troop 30892 and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Bruce for coordinating this program.

On Wednesday, March 26, the seniors will be treated to a Chef Paul fish luncheon at 12:30pm. This is an annual event put on by the Bromfield School Student Council and is always a big hit.

Tax Work-off Program

We have 13 people in the tax work-off program this year, and all of them have jobs. They can work up to 125 hours and get as much as \$1,000 taken off their property tax bills.

Outreach

We have a number of seniors who have not done well during this difficult winter. One case has been reported to protective services, and that person has been set up with some help. A few more have been quite ill and hospitalized in these last couple of months. In addition, the number of Bowers Brook residents who have needed help has increased.

The meals on wheels program had only 2 to 3 people receiving meals a few months ago. As of this date, 10 or 11 people are receiving meals on Tuesday and Thursday. During the month of March, our selectmen have been helping with

meal deliveries and have noticed the increase from last year. Thanks to all our volunteers who give their valuable time and energy to this town.

- March 22 – Life Transitions Brain Fitness Workshop
- March 26 – Student Council Luncheon - Bromfield
- April 1 and possibly April 2 – Annual Town Meeting. The MART van and Harvard Help are available to drive seniors
- April 10 – Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll program

The next COA board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2014 at 4 pm.

The COA meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.