

Harvard Council on Aging  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, February 23,, 2016  
Minutes

Present: Sue Guswa, Bruce Dolimount, Hank Fitek, Deb Thomson, Pam Frederick, Katie Petrossi, Suzanne Roberts, Beth Williams

Absent: Fran Nickerson

COA Director Debbie Thompson, Selectmen liaison Lucy Wallace, FCOA liaison Bob Eubank, Connie Larrabee, recorder

Co-Chairwoman Deb Thomson called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

The minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was accepted as submitted. Bruce reported the current balances as follows:

Revolving Funds \$11,885.60

Gift Account \$19,911.40

Formula Grant \$6,491.24 (must be spent by the end of the fiscal year June 30.)

Expenses are tracking on target.

Debbie has heard that the Finance Committee has talked about tapping the COA's revolving account for a contribution to the OPEB fund for future retiree benefits.

The board agreed that the fund should be protected and used for COA events.

**Minuteman Senior Services:** Pam Frederick will be going to the State House to lobby for senior issues and will make a full report at the April board meeting.

### **Directors Report**

The outreach department has been in contact with 451 residents over the age of 60 since July 1, describing our services and determining unmet needs. Two new clients have serious issues requiring multiple services.

Plans are taking shape for the relocation of COA offices and programs during the building renovation. Offices and some programs will be moved to the old library, while Tuesday and Thursday meals will be offered at St. Theresa's hall. St. Theresa's has also agreed to allow the MART van to be parked there, and to permit trip-goers to park their cars in the church lot. The only caveat is that we'll have to make other arrangements if there is a funeral at the church.

Debbie will let Greg Schmidt know that his offer of space in the Congregational Church will not be needed.

The new art classes and ongoing computer classes are increasingly popular. Karen Dolimount is teaching a watercolor class, while Carol Panek Clark is teaching pastels.

Upcoming events include:

Tuesdays, starting March 8 – Watercolor classes

Wednesday, March 9 - Student Council luncheon  
Wednesday, March 16 – Monty Tech open house  
Thursday, March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day lunch at St. Theresa’s  
Friday, March 18 – Trips – Paradise City

**Senior emergency needs:**

After a brief discussion the board voted to designate \$1,000 for an emergency fund to be used at the discretion of the director to provide assistance to seniors identified by the outreach department as having a critical need. The fund is intended to pay for emergency repairs or remediation of other health and safety issues when timely funding from other sources is not available. The money would come from either the revolving fund or the gift account.

**Hildreth House Building Project Update**

Windows: Moore Lumber has delivered 13 windows so far and 10 have been installed downstairs. Wade Holtzman and his installation crew plan to begin installing the upstairs windows in the next few weeks. Two of the kitchen windows were too big and will have to be re-ordered. Payment of the Moore invoices is on hold pending resolution of several issues

Phase 1: LLB has begun the design development phase and has outlined a number of access issues that will require variances from the building code. The upstairs doorways are not wide enough to allow wheelchair access, the front stairway is not code compliant, the kitchen is not compliant, etc. LLB will consult with the building inspector to see what he will allow, and with the Mass Architectural Access Board for required variances as needed.

**Committee Reports**

Housing: The next LWV housing program is scheduled for Monday, February 29 at 7 p.m. in Volunteers Hall.

The next COA housing event is a Lunch and Learn program about Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities on Monday, April 11 at noon at the Congregational Church. There will be at least three speakers representing peer-led grassroots organizations that are either planning or operating such “villages.”

Lucy reported that there is a proposed warrant article requesting funding for a study of senior housing on the Hildreth property. Board members agreed they support the idea but don’t have the expertise or enough information to take the lead.

**FCOA Update**

Bob Eubank reported that the FCOA annual meeting is scheduled for March 31 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Church.

He proposed that a joint meeting of the COA and FCOA would be a good way to explore ways to work together more effectively. The board agreed on April 28 as a possible date for a joint meeting at 4 p.m. Bob said he would relay that suggestion to the FCOA.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Hildreth House.

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

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee, recorder