

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2020
8:30am

Present: Rosemary Cunningham, Steve Miller, Marvene O'Rourke, John Dropick, Nancy Ignacio, Administrator Lyndsay Famariss and Treasurer of the Friends of the ECOA, Janice Belisle; **Absent:** Heidi Boyd

The meeting was called to order by Board chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:33am.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary asked if there were any amendments, questions or additions to the proposed minutes of October 16, 2020 minutes – Upon motion by John Dropick that was seconded by Nancy Ignacio, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Budget:

Lyndsay shared the update on the steps taken to meet the custodial needs of the building, including information that the cleaning service the ECOA was using in the fall needed to be replaced due to reasons not related to the performance of the company. A new cleaning service, Just in Time Cleaning, began providing weekly cleaning of the building recently. There were no questions from board members regarding the budget.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay reported that due to the increase in local cases of COVID, she made the decision to change the staff to a remote working model. Lyndsay shared the steps the staff takes to meet the demands of their positions while significantly limiting the time they spend in the building. She reported that the laptops the staff ordered using COVID funds arrived this past week, but the IT director Adam Darack found them to be defective, so they were returned. This was a setback to both staff morale and to the continuity of a productive work environment during the transition to remote working. She hopes and expects to have replacement computers in the next few weeks.

Lyndsay updated the board on the ECOA phone system and its unpredictability. The town is switching to a Comcast business phone that will allow employees to use their cell phones to access their work phones through an app, and the staff views this change with optimism.

Lyndsay stated that she has made contact with MarcAnthony Crimi, the new manager of the Kelley House, and that she hopes to meet him in person one day soon.

Lyndsay shared that she received a request from June Schoppe of the MV Arts Association about renting the lawn space on July 17, 2021 for an event they are hosting. The board asked for more details on this event before making a decision, including how many people they intend to have this event, the hours of the event and the plans for clean up. John asked if the town needed to be consulted to determine if it is possible to rent the space. Lyndsay assured the board that she would gather more info prior to the next board meeting.

Lyndsay updated the board on the outreach support worker position. In a recent budget Zoom meeting with the town administrator, department heads, selectmen and school

officials, the town administrator's provided his assessment of the town's fiscal health. Of note were the lower revenues due to the impact of COVID on the tourist season, and fiscal concerns for the future. Lyndsay shared that she has concerns about the town's willingness to confirm a new position in the ECOA at this time. The state Formula grant should be dispersed to our account in January, pending the state legislature's approval. This grant should fund Katie's position through May, or possibly June, of 2021.

Jay Sigler has expressed interest in returning to serve on the ECOA Board. The ECOA staff is unanimous in their support of this addition to the board. John Dropick asked about Jay and his qualifications, and Rosemary shared that Jay has been the chairman and co-chairman of the board, as well as his serving on the board for six years. Jay is a retired professor and lawyer. Marvene echoed her support of Jay's return, as did Steve Miller, Nancy Ignacio, and Janice Belisle, who shared that Jay had also been president of the Friends of the ECOA. The board's support of Jay Sigler's return to the board was unanimous.

Director of Senior Services Report

Meris reported that it continues to be challenging to provide programming to Edgartown older adults during COVID, but she feels that [Victoria Haeselbarth](#) and Katie Vieira are doing a great job checking with residents about their food needs, particularly over Thanksgiving. Meris stated that she is already turning her sights to Christmas, when the ECOA won't be offering meals. At this time, we'll again offer doubled up meals the week before the holiday to try to meet their food needs. She shared that the responses from residents indicate that at least 12 of our participants report that they are food insecure, so the staff will work to connect them to additional food resources as we move forward. Knitting is starting up again via Zoom, and there have been some technical challenges for some of the participants. Meris plans to visit one participant today and meet outside her home to help get her signed into Zoom so she can participate with the rest of the group.

Meris updated the board on the ECOA Special Account that funds the meals program. She shared the reasoning behind her decision to increase the amount we charge for meals from \$2 to \$3, or 2 for \$5. This change is a return to previous prices for our meal offerings.

Meris announced that the 2021 day planners are available for board members to pick up at the ECOA building, and she will organize a system similar to Fish Distribution to pass out the remaining planners. Rosemary and John complimented her on this idea. Meris reported that the Reverse Trick or Treat delivered to 130 people and that it was a success. She shared that she will be offering a similar delivery of hot chocolate supplies in December, and on Monday December 21 Adele Dreyer will be playing Christmas classics via Zoom for everyone to enjoy.

Outreach Report:

Outreach worker Victoria Haeselbarth joined the Zoom meeting to give her report. She reviewed the options that the ECOA is providing for food resources, thus reducing the time that older adults need to spend in the grocery store. The following programs will be used to meet Edgartown residents' needs: turkeys from the Greater Boston Food Bank, comfort food-type meals from Diane in the ECOA kitchen, the Edgartown Police Dept.

delivering frozen turkeys and volunteers delivering Thanksgiving meals from Meals on Wheels. Diane Wall's baked goods will be added to the Meals on Wheels deliveries to make the holiday special for many of our older residents.

Victoria reported being very busy helping to manage the Home Modification Program through Healthy Aging MV. She shared that three residents have been identified as having an urgent need for this program, and that one resident's (a 93 year old woman) work will be completed today. Victoria shared that this woman is very happy to receive this help and that she will feel much safer in her home as a result. Lyndsay interjected that she feels that an additional benefit of this program is that it solves the problem of finding construction workers to come for small jobs, let alone the benefit of covering the cost for the program. Victoria reported that she is trying to help HAMV to come up with a sliding scale to help people who can pay can contribute to the cost of implementing this program.

Janice brought up the issue of people not being able to find construction workers who will come by to do small jobs, even if the resident can pay. She asked if the ECOA could have a list of handymen and people who could be counted on for these types of jobs. Victoria responded that the liability of a list like this causes us to not take this approach in earnest, but that we do have a list that Katie Vieira updated recently. Victoria explained that sometimes this can be tricky, as some elders rave about a particular vendor, but then another elder may find that person to be worthy of being cut from the list.

Victoria shared an update from Katie's work as outreach support worker. In addition to Katie's tireless work in the meals program, she succeeded in getting ten \$100 gift cards from the VH Thrift Store, as well as a donation of new winter coats that we can distribute to our participants in need. Katie has also helped to organize the making of holiday cards by preschool children. These cards will be distributed to our clients in the Thanksgiving meal deliveries. Katie has helped a woman get improved insulation in her home and has assisted others with fuel assistance applications. Lyndsay added that the two Ipads that the ECOA got with money from the CARES grant through Elder Services will be used in upcoming outreach efforts.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice reported that in this time of need, the Friends are still available to help with fuel needs, and that we should call on them as needed.

New Business:

Rosemary asked if there were any new business, to which there was no response.

Rosemary shared her appreciation for Lyndsay's role in leading the ECOA during these difficult times.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:31am.