

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2021
8:30am

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

The meeting was called to order by Board chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:29 am.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary asked if there were any amendments, questions or additions to the proposed minutes of December 18, 2020 minutes – Upon motion by Marvene O'Rourke that was seconded by Nancy Ignacio, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Budget:

Lyndsay reported on the YTD budget, and brought the Board's attention to the line item for Utilities-telephone. We have spent about 70% of our \$3000 budget on this item, as the Comcast monthly charge is about \$266/month. There will be funds in other line items (such as in-state travel) that will help to cover the cost of this expense, and it the monthly charge may change if the Town changes to a Comcast phone system and perhaps negotiates a lower price.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay shared her computer screen with the Board to answer questions brought to her attention earlier in the week by Jay Sigler. The group reviewed recent conversations she had with Claire Sequin and Dedie Wieler of MV Hospital, and Matt Poole of the Edgartown Board of Health regarding the local vaccination distribution.

Lyndsay reported that the ECOA applied to the MV Community Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$2700 with \$2500 to be used to purchase grocery gift cards and \$200 to pay for five annual VTA bus passes for residents in need. While our original application was rejected, we were contacted by the MVCF later and given the amount we asked for in our application. MVCF gave this amount to the Friends of the ECOA with the intent that it will be used for the above reasons. John Dropick made a motion to accept this check and Jay Sigler seconded the motion. Rosemary announced that the check had been accepted by the Board.

Lyndsay asked the Board to accept a check from the Bill and Ann Brine Family Foundation in the amount of \$500. John Dropick made a motion to accept the check into the ECOA accounts, and Jay Sigler seconded the motion. Rosemary confirmed the check's acceptance by the Board.

The Administrator proposed that the Board accept ten days of vacation that Outreach Worker Victoria Haeselbarth would like to carry over. Jay Sigler made a motion to approve this request and Marvene O'Rourke seconded it. Donna Paulson would like to

carry over five days of vacation and John Dropick made a motion to approve this request that was seconded by Jay Sigler. Lyndsay explained that with ECOA Board approval, this request would then go to the Selectmen for their approval.

Lyndsay shared that the Annual Report was turned into the Town early January to the Town and she offered to share a copy with anyone who would like one.

Lyndsay updated the Board on an application with the Food Infrastructure and Security Grant that Victoria applied to over the summer. While we were not granted the full amount asked- close to \$70,000- we were notified that we will have \$3738.36 to spend on the specific items that Victoria requested in the application, including another upright freezer. The grant offers no reimbursement for items already purchased.

The Administrator offered an update on the vaccine rollout and she shared that she should have more information after a joint meeting between the Boards of Health, MVH and IHC on MLK Day. Matt Poole has promised to pass along new information to Lyndsay, which she will then share with our email list and staff. Lyndsay shared that the MCOA had just informed us that the COA workers (and volunteers) delivering food will be included at the end of Phase One. Jay Sigler brought up the political nature of the vaccine rollout. Lyndsay reported that she's not sure that all staff members are in favor of getting the vaccine, but that the staff is on board with sharing the public health message that getting the vaccine helps the community to combat COVID and keep people safe. There was a discussion about what role the ECOA can play in helping community members to get signed up for the vaccine.

Lyndsay passed along the good news that the staff has received their laptops through IT Director Adam Darack using COVID funding, and that this has been a boost to staff morale and work-from-home efficacy.

The Board discussed a request by June Schoppe and the MV Art Association to rent the ECOA lawn for the evening of July 17, 2021 for an event they are sponsoring from 5-7/8pm. June expects about 100-200 people to pass through in this time period. There are plans to get a liquor license for the day and to serve that in the Sculpin Gallery, not in the tent on the ECOA lawn. She assured Lyndsay that the food will be passed food if allowed due to COVID restrictions. If not allowed, the food will be boxed and handed out. There were no questions from the Board, and they approved this request. Lyndsay will provide an update as more information becomes available.

Outreach Report:

Victoria and Katie were unable to join the meeting, so Lyndsay read a report from Victoria that included information about three families who have been helped by the Fuel Assistance program. Victoria shared that she feels that the program has been easier to use this year, and that she's grateful for that. Included in the report was the news that the Friends help a family with their fuel bill, which had become unmanageable.

A new menu item was added to My Senior Center that included a way to capture the 17 new individuals we have served to date in January 2021.

Victoria's report included a vignette about a woman needing help to pay for her shingles vaccines, which she explained can be prohibitively expensive. After checking with Bill Glazier, the ECOA SHINE counselor, Victoria reported to the consumer that insurance companies often require people to meet their deductible before they will pay for these expensive vaccines.

The Home Modification program has been moving ahead with much-needed grab bars and other safety features that our consumers very much appreciate.

Art Bergeron has asked Victoria to appear on his television program this month, during which he'd like to discuss how COAs are adapting to the COVID closures and limitations.

Katie Vieira sent in a report that included tasks that she has been working on in Outreach, including working with Meris to find volunteers to help with trash removal, checking mail and shopping, and helping with fuel assistance applications. Katie shared that she created a food resource map for our clients that we included in the meal delivery the day before. Katie has also been working with the Dukes County Sheriff's Department to spread the word about installing the red tags at the end of people's driveways. These tags help emergency personnel and anyone serving the residence to easily locate them. Katie also reported that she has been working to train the staff on the meals packing protocols, so that each staff member can step in to help get meals ready for delivery. This change will allow Diane Wall to use Thursdays for cooking and food prep, which will help her to manage the weekly food output. This training will also allow all staff members to step in should one member be affected by COVID or other circumstances.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris reported that she sent the Board some statistics for their review and she asked the members to get in touch with her if they have any questions for her. She shared that she spoke with exercise instructor Lisa Amols and that they reached an agreement for her to finish out the month. Meris reported that she will be looking for a new instructor in the coming weeks.

She reported that there will be a Valentine cookie delivery just before Valentine's Day. She's working in conjunction with the Edgartown Library to distribute Valentine cards made by children to our older adults.

Adele Dryer will be giving a piano recital later today via Zoom. Rosemary asked if she gets paid for these performances, to which Meris answered no. Meris suggested that perhaps this idea should be revisited.

The ECOA will be offering Great Courses through a free membership Meris signed up for through the Boston Public Library. She shared that she plans to show some courses on art history, as that seems to be a topic that people have shown an interest in. Meris

offered to answer questions and facilitate these art history courses, as this is something she has studied and taught.

Meris reported that she's missing the trips off-island that she organized prior to COVID, and that she looks forward to planning them when the times comes for the ECOA to resume in-person programming.

Included in her report, Meris shared that the Anchors' cook, Diane Wall, has done a wonderful job in stretching the food budget. She reported that each bag of food that is delivered to our consumers is costing less than \$10, of which about half is being paid by the consumer and half is being subsidized by the Friends. Meris thanked the Friends for their ongoing support and shared that the balance is nearing \$3000, so the time will come soon that we will need to ask for an influx of financial support.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice Belisle reported that they are available for food account support, fuel support, and any other needs the ECOA may have.

New Business:

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

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:09 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2021.