

**ECOA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 21, 2021**  
**8:30am**

**Present:**, Marvene O'Rourke, Heidi Boyd, John Dropick, Jay Sigler, Janice Belisle, Stephen Miller; Administrator Lyndsay Famariss. **Absent:** Nancy Ignacio

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:32 am.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Rosemary thanked the board for putting their faith in her ability to lead for the next year with Marvene as co-chair. Rosemary also thanked John and Steve for their decisions to remain on the Board for another three-year term. She asked if there were any amendments, questions or additions to the proposed minutes of April 16, 2021. Stephen asked that the spelling of his name be corrected in the minutes to "Stephen", with a 'ph'. Upon motion to accept the minutes as amended by John Dropick that was seconded by Stephen Miller, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Rosemary asked the Board to vote on granting signing privileges for COA financial documents to Heidi Boyd, Marvene O'Rourke and Lyndsay Famariss. John Dropick made the motion to provide these three people with signing privileges and Stephen Miller seconded the motion. The Board voted to accept the motion unanimously.

**Budget:**

Lyndsay gave a report on the status of the cleaning contract with the Town and the potential options for outcomes and costs.

Lyndsay updated the Board on the new Comcast phone system bill, which is now grouped together with the other Town departments that also switched to this new system. As a result, it is somewhat difficult to pull out the charges for the COA exclusively, but Lyndsay is working with Adam on this task. She shared that this charge is going to be more than what we have paid in the past for our phones, but that we should be able to meet the expense by borrowing from other line items in our budget.

Lyndsay shared that the ECOA received a grant in the amount of \$1500.00 from Elder Services of the Cape & Islands through the CARES Act. This grant is meant to fund an additional freezer for food storage and to help the ECOA provide ice cream socials throughout the summer. Lyndsay asked the Board to approve this \$1500 check for deposit.

Rosemary asked for a motion, which John Dropick offered and Stephen Miller seconded. The Board voted unanimously to accept this check.

Lyndsay inquired whether there were any questions or comments, to which the Board answered that there were not.

**Administrator's report:**

Lyndsay reported that the bulk of her time has been spent on the ECOA's reopening plan. Lyndsay shared that the Town informed us that they would like to open with a

cohesive plan, and that we could not open until June 1. She gave an overview of the plans for small groups to begin meeting as of June 1 in the ECOA building.

Jay Sigler shared that the Tisbury Senior Center sent him notice that they will be opening June 1, and the Board agreed that this could be a good sign for the island that the COAs are beginning to open. After Rosemary commented that people who don't feel comfortable in the building could wear masks. Lyndsay commented that the Town has mandated mask wearing for all municipal buildings through Labor Day, so everyone in the building will be wearing a mask.

Lyndsay encouraged the Board members to contact her if they have any questions or concerns about the plans to re-open.

Lyndsay reported that Outreach Worker Katie Vieira will be leaving us June 30, when her grant funding comes to an end. She noted that Katie has left a big impact on the COA and our clients, and she will be sorely missed.

The Administrator commented that work continues on efforts to improve transportation for older adults in Edgartown.

Lyndsay announced that Town Meeting will be held on May 22, 2021 and that at the suggestion of Dianne Durawa is that a Board member should be present to answer questions that townspeople might have. Lyndsay encouraged Board members to contact her if they had any questions or needed more information to feel prepared to speak.

#### **Director of Senior Services Report:**

Meris shared her calendar with the Board and went over the programs and events that she has planned, pending final OK from the Town. She shared that the ECOA Walking Club is taking off, and that people have been enjoying time spent outdoors getting to know one another.

She reported that there are several gardening programs on the horizon, and that we now have a plant swap bin in the back of the building.

Meris shared that we're co-sponsoring a gardening program with the Edgartown Library on Adaptive Gardening on Friday, June 11 at 7pm.

Meris commented on our meals program changing to the brown bag lunch option on Tuesdays, beginning June 8.

Lyndsay added that she is expecting to meet with the Edgartown Building Inspector next week to discuss the possibility of erecting a tent in the ECOA yard for some activities, pending Town approval.

#### **Outreach Report:**

Victoria Haeselbarth was not able to attend the meeting today, but she submitted a report that Lyndsay read. This report included information about the Home Modification Program, and the news that this program is eligible for funds from Elder Services and SMOC (South Middlesex Opportunity Council). Both of these new funding options should ensure the continuation of the program in our community.

Victoria reported that we continue to help people get access to Covid vaccines, including those homebound elders who will be getting assistance through Lila Fischer, the public health nurse.

Victoria shared that she'll be helping low income residents with a Comcast program that gives them a \$50 monthly credit towards their internet service.

Katie updated the Board via a written report with changes to our meals program. She shared that some of her meals calls have helped to illuminate other problems, including two siblings who are living without heat and hot water. Katie was able to connect with their conservator and a local plumber to help remedy the situation.

Katie reported that she has been working on streamlining our caregivers' list. As a result, she has asked caregivers on the list to fill out a form that gives their skills and preferences. It's Katie's hope that this form will be useful for our staff and the families who are looking for caregivers.

### **Friends of the ECOA Report:**

Janice reported that the Friends have contributed in many ways to the Anchors in the past month. They paid for yoga and tai chi, the publications printed at the Tisbury Printer, flowers for outside the building, bingo materials, piano recitals, the Edgartown Library collaboration and a heating unit for an older adult who has no heat for most of the winter.

### **New Business:**

There was no new business.

Rosemary adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am after a motion from Jay Sigler which was seconded by Heidi Boyd.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 18, 2021 at 8:30am.