

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2021
8:30am

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Rosemary Cunningham at 8:31 am.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary shared that there was a mistake, and the Board did not get the last meeting's minutes prior to today's meeting. As a result, the Board will review them prior to the next meeting in October.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay brought the Board up-to-date on happenings with the Kelley House renovation project. She shared that there has been no movement on the project aside from their meeting with the Historic District Commission. She shared that she met with the Town Administrator, and he reported to her that the Kelley House has not yet reached out to the Select Board to be placed on their agenda, and that that will be the next necessary step in their project.

Marvene O'Rourke asked if the whole ECOA Board had been updated on the intended plans of the Kelley House. Lyndsay gave an overview of the plans that she received from the Kelley House in early summer and asked if the Board had any questions. She stated that she will keep the Board informed of any new steps in the Kelley House renovation project as she learns of them.

John Dropick pointed out that the Woods Hole group issued a report saying that the downtown area needs to be elevated several feet due to climate change, and that that report may be affecting the timeline of this project.

Pat Tyra asked Lyndsay to inquire if the ECOA Board members would be open to including their bios in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

Lyndsay shared that Healthy Aging MV is submitting a proposal to the MV Community Foundation to pay for a 3-year grant to pay for a coordinator for off-island medical appointment transportation. The ECOA is involved in this effort to increase transportation options, and if this grant is funded, Edgartown's older adults would contact us to act as a liaison with the transportation coordinator.

Steve Miller commented that telemedicine appointments are getting to be more mainstream, so that the ECOA staff might want to help people to get connected to their doctors in that way so as to avoid a trip to Boston. Lyndsay agreed and responded that the ECOA has I-pads to be used for that purpose, and we welcome the prospect of helping people with their telemedicine appointments.

Rosemary commented that she has found telemedicine to be a very helpful alternative to visiting Boston for follow up appointments.

John shared that the eye care options exist in Falmouth as well, and that that is something we should share with our participants. Janice shared that she thinks the

surgeries are done in Sandwich, but the Falmouth office serves people with macular degeneration.

Lyndsay reported on the GoGoGrandparent pilot ride program through Healthy Aging MV, and the involvement of some of our ECOA participants.

Lyndsay asked for the Board's approval of a check from Stop & Shop's Community Bag Program in the amount of \$40.00. John Dropick made a motion to accept the check, and Jay Sigler seconded. The Board voted unanimously to accept this check into the ECOA Special Account.

Lyndsay and Rosemary asked that we make a change to the October Board meeting date due to doctors' appointments that conflict with our regular schedule. Rosemary asked for the Board to meet on Friday, October 29, 2021 at 8:30am. The Board unanimously agreed to this change of date.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice reported that the Friends annual meeting will take place at her house on Sept 27th, and then the Friends will send out their annual appeal letter. Janice relayed to the group that she is hopeful that the Friends can help to beautify the interior of the building

Budget:

Lyndsay gave a report that included information about a few added expenses- the bill to clean the seven heat pumps in the building and an annual bill for email accounts and data storage.

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

She shared the need for a capital project to paint the exterior of the ECOA building and repair the rotted wood, including the wooden gutters.

Lyndsay has gotten estimates for the interior painting and floor refinishing projects, and she noted that she will meet with the Friends to discuss their possible involvement in paying for these upkeep projects.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris Keating was out on this day, but Lyndsay updated the Board on new programming. She reported that the Bingo and movie programming on Thursdays have been regularly attended and a big hit. She shared that our exercise classes will begin again the following week, with everyone being masked and with as much space and air circulation as possible. She shared that the trip to the North End was canceled due to low numbers signing up (likely due to comfort level of participants in riding on a bus to Boston), but that the October 7 trip to Nantucket has filled up with participants. She shared that we hope to replicate both trips in the Spring due to high interest.

Rosemary Cunningham asked if the Anchors would be serving as a vaccination site for Covid-19 booster shots, to which Lyndsay answered that we will not be serving in that role. She explained that she expects that the ECOA will serve as an information source and that will help to inform our participants of any up-to-date information from the Boards of Health on this topic.

Jay Sigler asked if the ECOA has any limit on the number of people who can be in the building at any one time. Lyndsay responded that the Board of Health has not given us

a limit on the number of people who can be in the building, but that we try to manage the numbers thoughtfully while planning our programming and daily schedule. Jay inquired about whether opening for congregate meals will happen soon. Lyndsay answered that she doesn't feel that we are close to opening for in-house meals. She shared that Elder Service is not moving closer to resuming their meal service at other COAs, and that she has not been given an indication from the Board of Health that congregate meals will be a possibility for us in the near future.

Janice inquired about an additional day for picking up lunch at the ECOA. Lyndsay announced that our Friday Café will begin on Friday, October 1, and we'll offer an entrée, soup and dessert for our regular \$5 charge. She added that we're excited to offer a second day of to-go meals, and by keeping the schedule on our regular congregate meal days, we hope that this will make the transition smoother when we are allowed to serve people in the building again.

Lyndsay added that Meris started a manicure program that has been wildly popular with our participants.

Lyndsay also added that Victoria connected her with Simmons University about the possibility of welcoming a social work intern to the ECOA for an 11-month placement. She will keep the Board updated if this gets closer to being a reality.

Outreach Report:

Victoria Haeselbarth joined the meeting and shared that our call volume has noticeably picked up. She announced that we have one ongoing Protective Services case that requires a lot of case management attention. Victoria surmised that Protective Services' parameters for their involvement and continued support seem to have narrowed, and that this change has affected our clients.

Victoria spoke about our relationship with Healthy Aging MV (HAMV), and the programs on which we are collaborating with them. The GoGoGrandparent pilot transportation program has been very successful with our three Edgartown participants. She also shared that there is work taking place on the older adult online resource database, FirstStopMV, and Victoria is serving as a collaborator on the updating process. Victoria expressed her enthusiasm for the third project the ECOA shares with HAMV, the Home Modification program. She underlined how helpful this program is to making people's homes safer and allowing residents to live better and longer in their own homes. She offered an example of one couple she visited recently who expressed their gratitude for this resource.

Victoria announced that Harbor Homes is close to opening their new home for women in Oak Bluffs. Victoria reported that she was able to take a tour of the building, and she found it to be a very welcoming and well-designed space. She shared a vignette about one of our residents who will be moving in after moving on MV 24 times. Victoria is attempting to reach another Edgartown client who has been living on a tent on the beach for the past several years, to see if she may become a resident at the new Harbor homes site.

Victoria relayed to the Board that Fuel Assistance applications open on Sept 27, and that she expects this to be a busy winter for this program.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 29th, 2021 at 8:30am.