

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2021
8:30am

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

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

Town Administrator, James Hagerty

James Hagerty updated the Board on the status of the Kelley House renovation project and its potential impact on the ECOA.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary Cunningham asked for the Board's approval of the minutes from June 25, 2021, July 14, 2021 and September 17, 2021. John Dropick made a motion to approve the minutes and Nancy Ignacio seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes from these minutes.

Budget:

Lyndsay reported that there are no particular areas of concern or of note to report regarding the COA's YTD budget. She asked for questions or comments from the Board, but there were none.

Administrator's report:

Lyndsay reported on her contact with the Kelley House owners and the latest plans they shared with her, including creating 10 parking spaces She extended their invitation to meet with our Board, but the Board decided that this contact was best left to the Town. The decision was made to have a subcommittee meeting of the Board to discuss this project further. This meeting will take place via Zoom at 8:30am on Tuesday, November 9th. Lyndsay will set up the meeting on the Town Calendar and will send out an email to Board members with the meeting link.

Lyndsay asked the Board to accept a check in the amount of \$74 from the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program. This check will be deposited into the ECOA special account, upon approval from the Board. John Dropick made a motion to accept the check and Marvene O'Rourke seconded this motion. The Board unanimously approved this motion.

Lyndsay shared that an earlier meeting with the Town's procurement officer, Jennifer Smyth, had to be postponed due to the storm, but that she planned to meet with Ms. Smith later today to discuss the need for exterior repair work (especially to the trim and gutters) and painting at The Anchors building. The two estimates from local painters that have come in to date estimated the work to be in the \$40- \$50,000 range. The plan is that this would be a warrant article that will go in front of the Town Meeting next spring,

but there are many steps in the process that she will follow to try to get it in front of voters.

She shared that self-administered mold testing kits revealed that there are very high levels of mold in two areas of the Anchors building, namely the great room and Victoria's office. She will be researching mold remediation options, but this finding might delay the plans to repaint the interior of that room and the first floor reception area.

Lyndsay reported on the transportation pilot program that is percolating as a collaboration with the VTA and Healthy Aging MV. The VTA has a van that is set aside specifically for island COA use, and the ECOA is hoping to use staff members and volunteers to staff a transportation loop to several Edgartown businesses- Stop & Shop, the Stop & Shop pharmacy and the US Post Office for Edgartown older adults. Annual costs to the ECOA have been estimated to be in the range of \$3000 for annual insurance (through the VTA) and approximately \$2000 for fuel (also at a contract price through the VTA; this is what other Town departments do). Healthy Aging MV is willing to partner with the ECOA to help find grant money, though some funding is likely to be needed from our Town budget. The state organization MassMobility is another valuable resource in the planning of this pilot program, and this support will allow us to be able to make educated decisions about how best to structure this program. Lyndsay will also be working with appropriate Town officials on this project.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris reported that the trip to Nantucket was a great success, and that people had a wonderful time. She is hopeful that we can plan more trips in the future.

Meris shared that the programming for November will, for the most part, remain the same. The mahjong and bridge games the Anchors has long hosted will be augmented by alternating days of spades and Scrabble.

She noted that we will be closed for Veterans Day on November 11, but that we will be offering a free meal to any veteran in November. November is also Caregiver Appreciation Month, and the ECOA applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$1500 from Elder Services of the Cape & Islands. This money, which was part of a CARES grant, will allow us to show support for people in the caregiving role. We purchased \$50 gift certificates from local Edgartown restaurants, and together with notecards that the Friends are sponsoring, we will be giving caregivers these gifts as a token of their challenging and meaningful work.

Meris shared that November is also Diabetes Awareness month, and Town Nurse Lila Fischer will be offering pre-diabetes screenings for our participants.

She highlighted the lack of outdoor seating at the Anchors, and she shared that there has been discussion about purchasing some benches for a conversational area outside the Anchors on the Daggett St side of the building. Also, a long time participant of the Anchors left the island and asked about ways she could make a donation with meaning to the ECOA. Meris suggested that perhaps she would like to purchase a bench as part of this seating arrangement and have a family plaque attached to it. Meris will discuss this with her to see if it appeals to her.

Outreach Report:

Victoria Haeselbarth was out of the office on this day, so Administrator Lyndsay Famariss read her report. She shared about a recent Protective Services referral, and the state of the ECOA's relationship with the Protective Services' team. Several people have reached out for Fuel Assistance, and for SHINE appointments, as the open enrollment period is currently in effect for Medicare. She has also helped three households to apply for the Home Modification program in recent weeks. Victoria's report also included mention of people who have called looking for help setting up caregiving help. Some of these people have been from off-island residents who are concerned about their MV relatives.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice thanked Lyndsay for taking good care of all of the Edgartown residents. Janice reported that the Friends have had a positive response from their annual appeal letter. She commented on people's generosity, and how heartwarming it is to see people giving what they can to support the ECOA.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:25 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 19, 2021 at 8:30am.