

ECOA Board Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2022
8:30am

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

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

Rosemary Cunningham read a poem by Zachary Wiesner to open the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Rosemary asked for the Board's approval of the minutes from December 17, 2021 and the special board meeting of January 7, 2022. Marvene O'Rourke made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Nancy Ignacio seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Budget:

Lyndsay pointed out that since our last Board meeting, we paid a bill (approx. \$2400) for replacement of the kitchen ceiling lights. They have been replaced with LED fixtures that will be much more efficient and are expected to last for up to 20 years before they need to be replaced. These new lights meet code for a commercial kitchen. Lyndsay reported that she will be going in front of the Edgartown FinCom, and the changes she is asking for include more money for building maintenance, money to replace our line item for postage and money for the insurance, fuel and repairs for the ECOA van pilot program. These items will be voted on by the FinCom, and if approved, they will go on the warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting. She shared that the MV Community Foundation approached her to help fund the van prior to the projected town funding in FY23 (pending town vote).

Administrator's report:

Rosemary shared the background for the subcommittee to work on the long-term plans for the ECOA. Marvene O'Rourke agreed to chair this committee, and it will work together to build a committee that consists of board member(s), select board member, community member/stakeholder(s). This committee will meet regularly to look at the limitations on our current building from a programming, accessibility and environmental standpoint. The committee will report back to the Board with regular updates. Nancy Ignacio made a motion to form this committee and John Dropick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to move forward with this effort. Marvene O'Rourke asked if anyone has an interest in this area, they should get in touch with Marvene or Lyndsay.

Lyndsay shared that the state of the road and the parking area is quite poor, with many potholes and very little attention paid to the care of this area. She reported that the Kelley House owns the road and parking areas, so in theory, they should be tending to it, but perhaps because they're closed at this time, this area does not appear to be

getting attention. James Hagerty has told Lyndsay that he will send the Highway Dept if the problem does not get resolved.

Lyndsay reported that the rapid at-home Covid tests continue to be distributed through the COA, though the demand for them seems to have leveled off somewhat. She informed the board that the Board of Health expects to get a large shipment to MV in the next week or two, so that we should have an ongoing supply to distribute in the coming weeks.

Jay Sigler brought up the federal distribution of the N95 masks and suggested that Lyndsay contact Island Health Care to make plans to distribute them at the COA. Lyndsay brought up the continued pause in in-house programming at the COA, but that this decision will come from the Board of Health and the Town. She shared that she hopes that we will be able to reopen for programming as soon as it is safe to do so. John Dropick asked a question about Meals on Wheels and how to serve people in need of food on weekends and holidays. John also inquired about the delivery options for people who are not able to get to one of the pick-up sites for food.

Director of Senior Services Report:

Meris Keating was out of the office this week, so Lyndsay gave a short report. Meris is also looking forward to welcoming people back for in-house programming. She continues to provide creative options for Zoom-based programming, including speakers, music performances and conversation groups.

Meris hopes to lead a trip to the North End in the Spring, provided that we get the green light from the Board of Health.

Outreach Report:

Victoria Haeselbarth shared that the MV Center for Living is once again offering Covid Relief Funds (from the MV Community Foundation) to help people pay for the utility bills. Victoria shared that just in the past week, she was able to help four households with this program. She pointed out that this local funding is so helpful because there is very little involved in the application process, so it ends up being a simple process to get our clients the support they need in a timely fashion.

Victoria reported how appreciative her outreach clients have been to receive the gift bags from the Edgartown Fire Department. She explained that all of the attention that our town pays to its older adults does not go unnoticed by our older neighbors, and it makes us all feel grateful to live and work in the town.

Victoria shared the sad news of the loss of two long-standing members of the Memory Support Group, Tom Flynn and Ken Nagle. Victoria shared that the loss of these two wonderful men leaves a big hole in the hearts of Victoria, the other facilitator and the other group members. She pointed out that this group has been on hiatus since the beginning of the pandemic, but she hopes that the group will reconvene as soon as it's safe to do so.

Victoria detailed a case of one client who was recently diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's, and the challenges this brought about for the family, which includes two teenaged children. She described the efforts that have been put in action to support this family.

Victoria mentioned the fish stew and fish chowder from the MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust, and how this generous donation has pleased so many of our older residents.

Rosemary thanked Victoria for all she does for the ECOA and its clients.

Friends of the ECOA Report:

Janice mentioned that Trudy Williams might be someone who would be interested in being on our Board. Janice stated that the Friends continue to support the ECOA programming, and she brought attention to Meris' excellent skills in making programming interesting and welcoming, despite the limitations put on her due to Covid. Janice encouraged the staff to contact them for any future needs that arise.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Rosemary Cunningham adjourned the meeting at 9:17 am.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2022 at 8:30am.